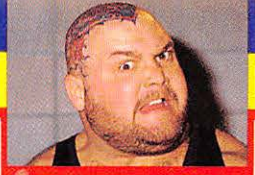

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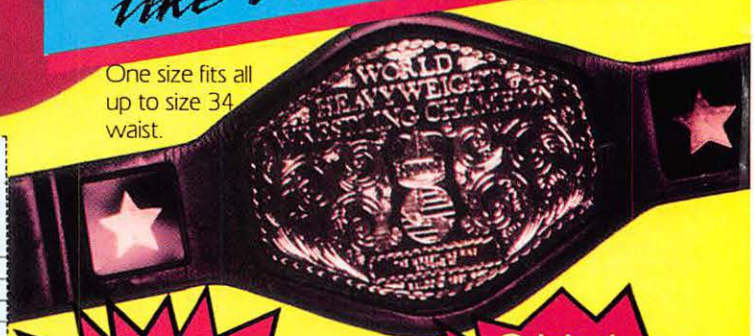

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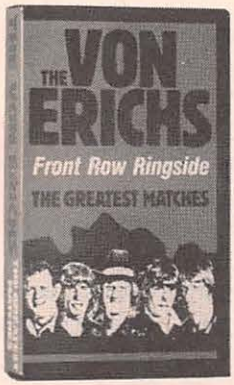

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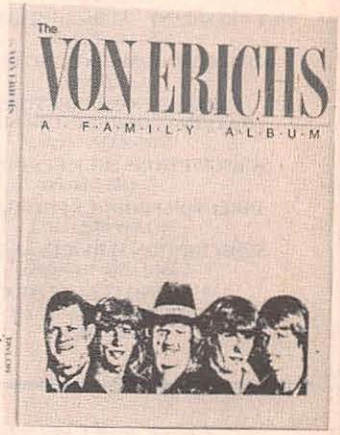

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Pro Wrestling Illustrated is published monthly by T.V. Sports Inc., Box 48, Rockville Centre, N.Y., 11571. For advertising queries: (516) 764-0300. Single copy price: $2.25 ($2.95 in Canada, £1.50 in U.K.). We are not responsible for the loss or nonreturn of unsolicited articles or photographs, which will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed envelope bearing the proper amount of postage. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without the written permission of the publisher. All rights reserved.
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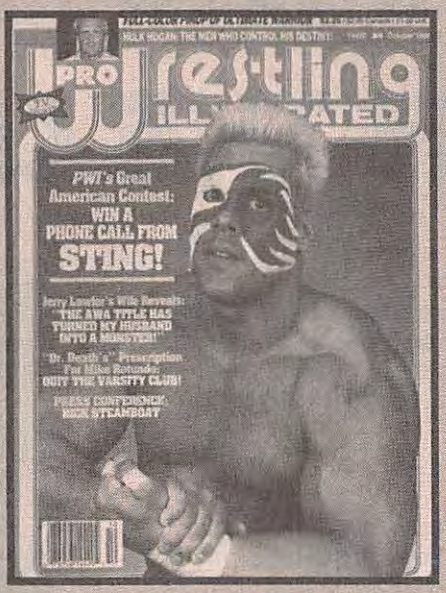
STINGING COMMENTARY

I want you all to know how excited I was when I saw that you put Sting on the cover of the October 1988 issue of *PWI*. I even bought two copies! One to read and one to save for years to come.

You see, Sting is my favorite wrestler. He is powerful, he has scientific skills rarely seen in the mat sport today, and he has aerial moves that never fail to excite.

Your contest, "Win A Phone Call From Sting," is one of the best ways I have ever seen to excite the fans and give them something back for their months of support. As far as Sting is concerned, I'm sure you have your hands full of mail, judging by his overwhelming popularity. You're lucky you didn't have the same contest with Barry Windham or Ronnie Garvin! Of course, your *mailroom* would be happy; they'd have nothing to do!

All in all, thanks for the contest and for the cover story on Sting. He is my favorite. I think he has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PWI's Great American Contest: WIN A PHONE CALL FROM STING!
Jerry Lawler's Wife Reveals: THE AWA TITLE HAS TURNED MY HUSBAND INTO A MONSTER!!
Dr. Death's Prescription For Mike Rotunda: QUIT THE VARSITY CLUB!
PRESS CONFERENCE: RICK STEAMBOAT

the potential to be the finest wrestler ever!

AZIZI PARKER
Far Rockaway, NY

Although the idea of a phone call contest intrigues me, I wish it could have been anybody but Sting.

Sting is nothing more than a flash-in-the-pan grappler who's capitalized on the media hype and fan popularity that really should be given to veteran wrestlers like Dusty Rhodes, Ric Flair, and Randy Savage. Yes, Sting is exciting to watch, but he has a hell of a lot to learn.

For example, every time I watch him wrestle Flair for the NWA World title, he makes mistakes that a veteran would *never* make. He telegraphs his "Stinger splash" by the obvious way he throws his opponent into the corner. A guy like Flair has the brains to just step out of the way. How many times have we seen this?

Sting represents the young wrestling fans who have no sense of history. Now, if you *really* want to have a contest to get me interested, how about a phone call from seven-time NWA champion Harley Race? I can already hear all you wet-behind-the-ears fans saying, "Who?" Get with it, kids!

DOUG FOX
Atlanta

GENTLEMEN IN WRESTLING

I see so much yelling and threatening in wrestling that it was a great change to see World Class champion Kerry Von Erich and AWA World champion Jerry Lawler agree to a match in the manner it should be done. They proved that two men can get in the ring and challenge each other without yelling or threatening or going for each other's throats.

Lawler was just about to begin a match when Kerry came to the ring and challenged him. Belt against belt. Lawler agreed. That was it. There was no shouting, no threats, just two men who respect each other as championship wrestlers agreeing to wrestle each other. We need more of that today.

KAREN DYE
Higginsville, MO

BASH BASHING

This is not a comment on any past article, but this does concern what will probably be a future article. I have just finished viewing the NWA's Baltimore Bash on my cable system, and I must say that I am quite dissatisfied. After watching several of the best matches I have seen in a long time, I eagerly awaited the last bout, around which the card had been centered.

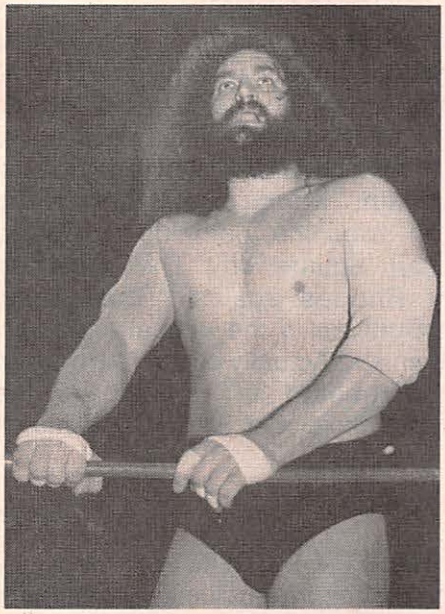
The word "furious" would be an understatement of my feelings at

its outcome. Although my loyalty lies with The Four Horsemen, my heart goes out to a man I never liked, Lex Luger.

In my opinion, the National Wrestling Alliance has sunk to its lowest by allowing a state official instead of a *wrestling* official to determine the result of a match. There may be a rule granting doctors the right to officiate, but the blood from Luger's cut was not nearly as bad as cuts other men have acquired in the ring, including those in Maryland arenas.

If the NWA can't follow its own rules, I may have to turn my attention elsewhere. I wouldn't be surprised if Luger did the same.

THERESA MOELLER
Houston



Bruiser Brody was the toughest man in the sport, according to Wallace Smedley.

A EULOGY

I am greatly saddened by the murder of my favorite wrestler Bruiser Brody. It was something you never think could happen. It was something you never think about.

Rather, I would like to think of the many times I saw this great man in action. I remember the first time I saw Brody wrestle. It was on *World Championship Wrestling.* These two guys were wrestling, and Brody just ran into the ring and beat up both of them. He didn't care that it wasn't his match or that he didn't know either of the wrestlers, he just wanted to make a point. Bruiser Brody was the toughest man in the sport.

Although I never saw him wrestle live, I'll never forget the many times I saw him on television. In one interview, he was waiting to talk and he had a light bulb in his mouth. I never knew why, but it made sense.

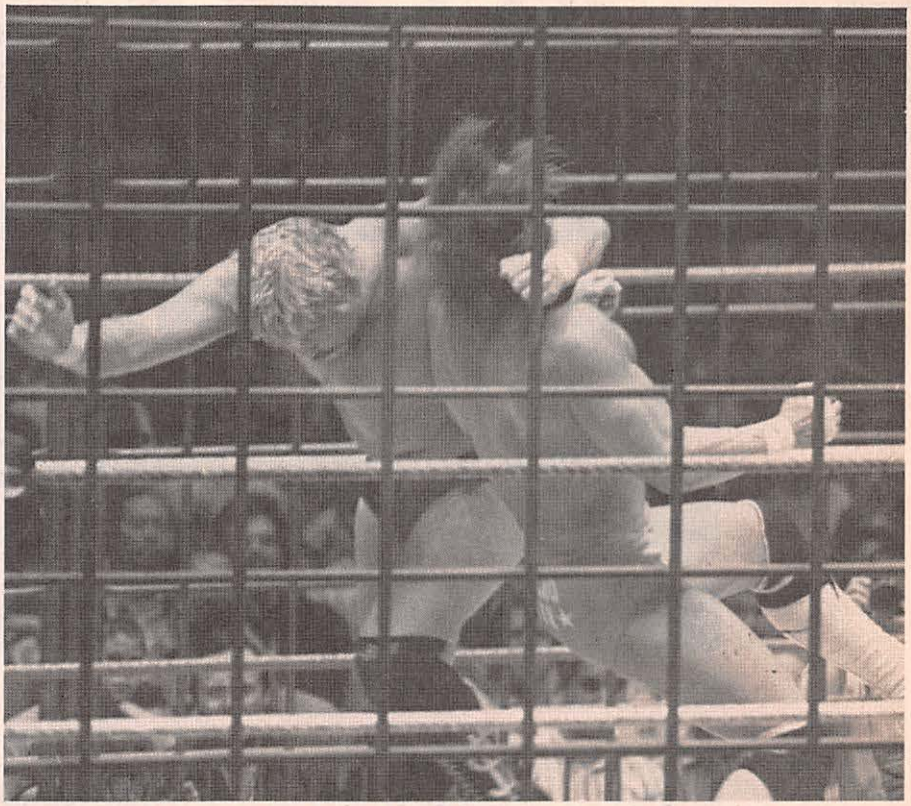
Brody was different. It never mattered if he was a rulebreaker or fan favorite. You had to like him. He was just so crazy.

I have one anecdote about Brody I will cherish forever. A young wrestler came up to Brody and said, "I'm the second-best wrestler in the world," hoping to impress the Bruiser.

"Well, until you're the best," Brody answered, "step aside."

You're still the best, Bruiser, and we'll all be stepping aside forever. Rest in peace.

WALLACE SMEDLEY
Austin, TX



The cage match between Ted DiBiase and WWF World champion Randy Savage at Madison Square Garden was marred because both wrestlers concentrated on running out of the cage rather than wrestling, writes Gaspar Pena.

CAGE CATASTROPHE

I was recently at Madison Square Garden to see Randy Savage defend his WWF World championship against Ted DiBiase in a steel cage. This was a disappointing event. Instead of seeing one opponent outwrestle the other, what I witnessed was a race to see who runs out of the cage first! This diminishes the excitement of a championship match, of watching two evenly matched grapplers find out who is the best.

DiBiase evidently has more scientific skills than Savage, who has vastly more scientific skills than the cartoon former champion Hulk Hogan. If this cage match had progressed long enough with both men concentrating more on wrestling than on racing, DiBiase would probably be champion today. Once again, he has been cheated out of the championship and the fans have been cheated out of a great battle.

GASPAR PENA
New York

(Continued on page 50)

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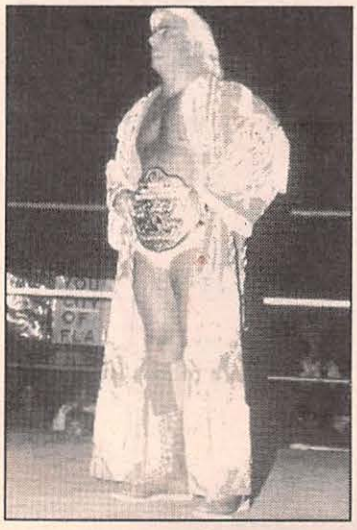

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RINGSIDE

With Bill Apter

FORMER AWA WORLD champion **Curt Hennig**, who recently returned to the World Wrestling Federation, says that he quit the AWA because of his inability to regain the title from current AWA champ **Jerry Lawler**.

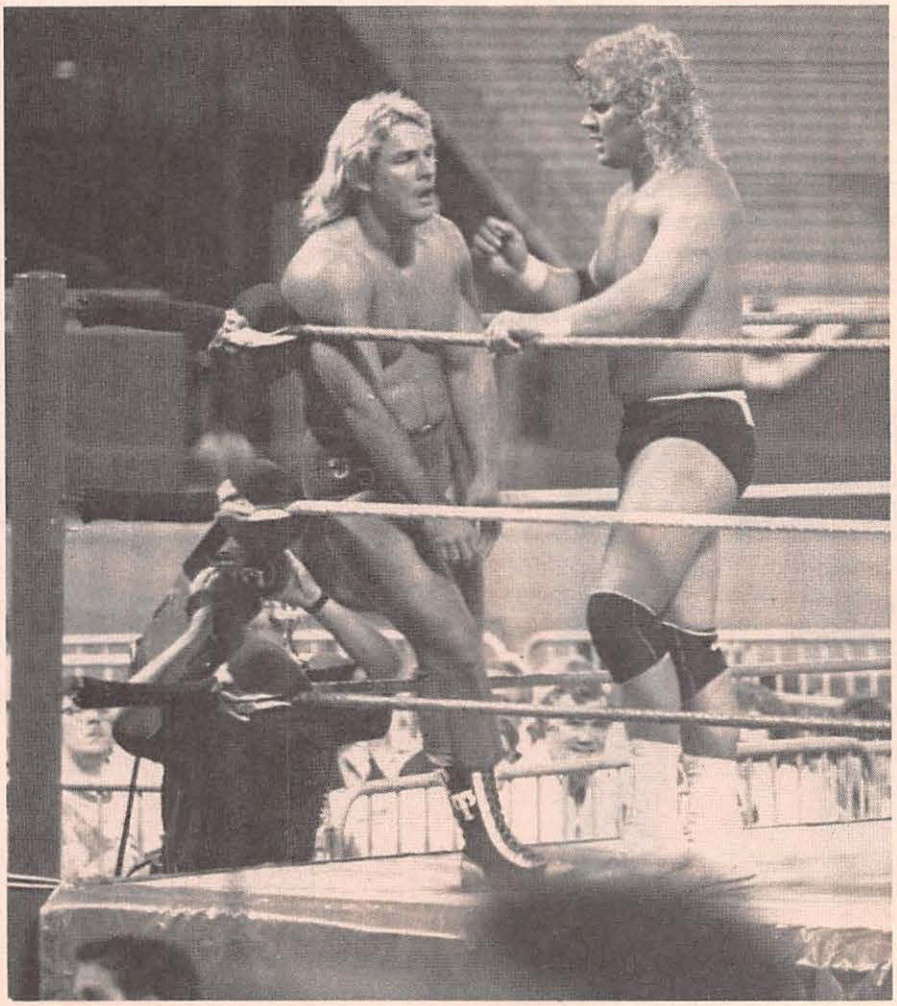
"There are several reasons why I left," Hennig said in an exclusive telephone interview from his Minneapolis home just prior to his official signing with the WWF. "But the main reason is that Lawler paid off all the AWA officials at every one of our matches to ensure that I would be disqualified for any stupid reason they could think of. If it looked like he was about to lose the belt, I would be disqualified even if I hadn't done anything!"

In one of his first WWF matches, at the July 31 WrestleFest card at Milwaukee County Stadium, Hennig pinned another WWF newcomer, **Terry Taylor**. Also on that card, **Hulk Hogan** returned to the ring for the first time since April and defeated **Andre the Giant** in a steel cage bout.

Bam Bam Bigelow bid farewell to the WWF and has signed for several matches in the Championship Wrestling Association. Bigelow is also negotiating for a title bout against Lawler. Also, congratulations are in order to Bam Bam and his wife **Dana**. She gave birth to their first child, **Shane C. Bigelow**, on June 9. Shane weighed in at eight pounds, six ounces.

The Batten Twins have arrived in the WWC and are after tag team champions **Kendo Nagasaki** and **Super Black Ninja**, also known as

(Continued on page 62)



Former AWA World champion Curt Hennig (above left) is now in the WWF. At the July 31 WrestleFest, Hennig battled another WWF newcomer, former World Class Texas champ Terry Taylor (above right).

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★ Featuring ★

THE SUPERSTARS OF A SUPER SUMMER!

A spectacular eight-page full-color bonus section highlighting the top stars and peak action that made the summer of 1988 one of the most memorable seasons ever in wrestling!

★ Featured in full-color will be ★

★ Hulk Hogan ★ Ric Flair ★
★ Randy Savage ★ Lex Luger ★
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The "Superstars Of A Super Summer" special issue of *The Wrestler* is cover-dated December 1988 and goes on sale October 11. This one is sure to be a sellout, so get to your newsstand early!

from the desk of. . .

Stuart M. Saks

Who's that guy buried near the bottom of the WWF card in Milwaukee, wrestling Terry Taylor, that other WWF newcomer? He used to be somebody, right? Used to wear some kind of belt, didn't he?

Well, his name is Curt Hennig. Yes, he used to be somebody. And, oh yeah, he was the American Wrestling Association World heavyweight champion.

For a year and a week, Hennig was the number-one man in the AWA. His reign, while marred by its questionable origin, helped bring a degree of respectability back to a federation that had taken a serious beating since the sudden departure of Stan Hansen in 1986.

Hennig was youthful, strong, and enthusiastic. But he had become a rulebreaker, and that bothered a lot of the people who knew that he was good enough to be a successful wrestler by using more legitimate means of competition. They're probably right. But the problem with that line of thought is that it ignores the essence of Hennig's being.

Being successful isn't enough for this man. He has to be *great.* From the time he was able to walk, he remembers being groomed to fulfill the dream that had always eluded his father, Larry Hennig. He can't quite pinpoint when, but somewhere along the line, Curt's father's dream became his own.

He was determined to win a world championship, but he was equally as determined, much to Larry's dismay, to do it his own way. Larry "The Ax" Hennig was one of the most feared men ever to step into a wrestling ring. He didn't necessarily have to break a single rule to send his opponents running to the referee in protest; his reputation preceded him, and an intimidating reputation it was. "Larry Hennig could beat his opponents with a stare," Matt Brock once told me.

Being a good athlete, which Curt Hennig was, would not be enough for his son, Larry reasoned. He wanted Curt to be a killer, to profit from the same pyschological edge that his meanness brought him. But Curt was his own man. He began his career in 1980, and moved to the WWF as a fan favorite in 1981. He enjoyed moderate success, but nothing indicating there might be a world championship in his future. Even when he achieved a level of stardom in the Pacific Northwest and the AWA, there was something missing. His father knew what it was, but he was past the point of trying to control his son's life.

Winning the AWA World tag team championship with Scott Hall in 1986 was not the turning point in Hennig's career. Losing it was. Doug Somers and Buddy Rose won the match when Hall was counted out of

(Continued on page 54)

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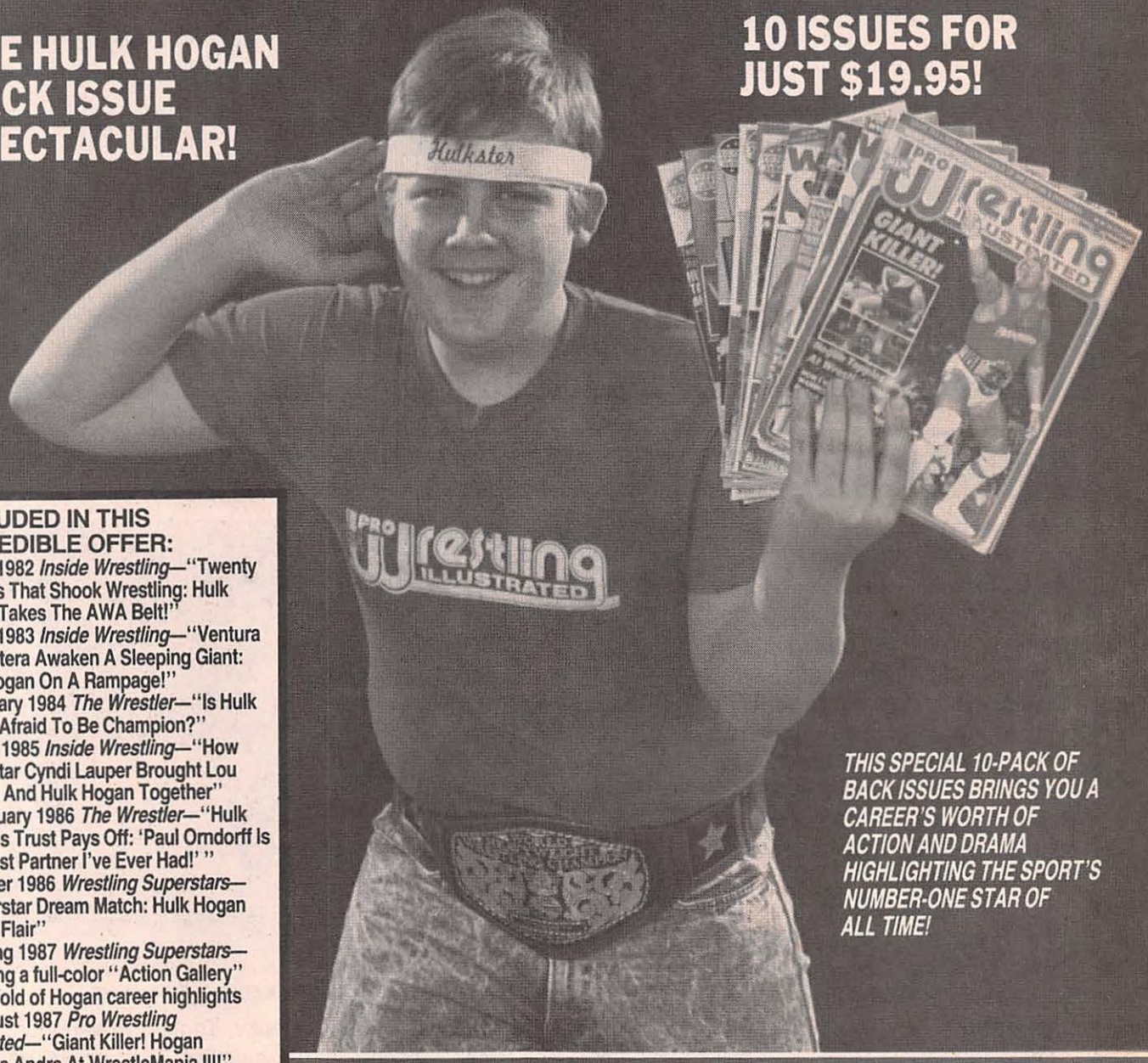

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- February 1986 *The Wrestler*—"Hulk Hogan's Trust Pays Off: 'Paul Orndorff Is The Best Partner I've Ever Had!' "
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DIGS

With CRAIG PETERS

LONGEVITY DOES NOT EQUAL QUALITY

As we go to press, it's just a few days after August 2, 1988; that's the date that The Honky Tonk Man became the longest-reigning WWF Intercontinental champion of all time.

Let's make one thing perfectly clear: "longest-reigning" does *not* necessarily mean "best." Although to read Dave Rosenbaum's "No Holds Barred" column on page 18, you would think otherwise.

Rosenbaum is wrong.

In his column, Dave writes that Honky Tonk has "been resourceful. Occasionally, he's been disqualified."

Occasionally? Honky Tonk rates a strong number two, right behind Ric Flair, in cowardly self-disqualification in order to save his title.

"Occasionally, manager Jimmy Hart's outside interference prevented his certain demise."

Occasionally? Again, like Flair relying on J.J. Dillon's interference, Honky Tonk relies on Hart to a degree where I can't believe the man is able to sleep soundly at night.

"Occasionally—remember the Survivor Series?—Honky Tonk has taken a walk when in trouble."

Peggy Sue, The Honky Tonk Man, & Jimmy Hart

What does this have to do with Honky Tonk being a better or worse champion than anyone else? Remember the same Survivor Series? Remember how Bam Bam Bigelow stood up in the face of the three-on-one challenge from One Man Gang, King Kong Bundy, and Andre the Giant? Bigelow lost, but stood brave in the face of the challenge; Honky Tonk is merely a coward.

"But before you start criticizing Honky Tonk," Rosenbaum says, "remember that when he really has to, Honky Tonk can beat the best. When he first won the I-C title, he beat Steamboat on a clean pin."

If you count a clean pin as being one in which Honky Tonk was grabbing the ropes for leverage.

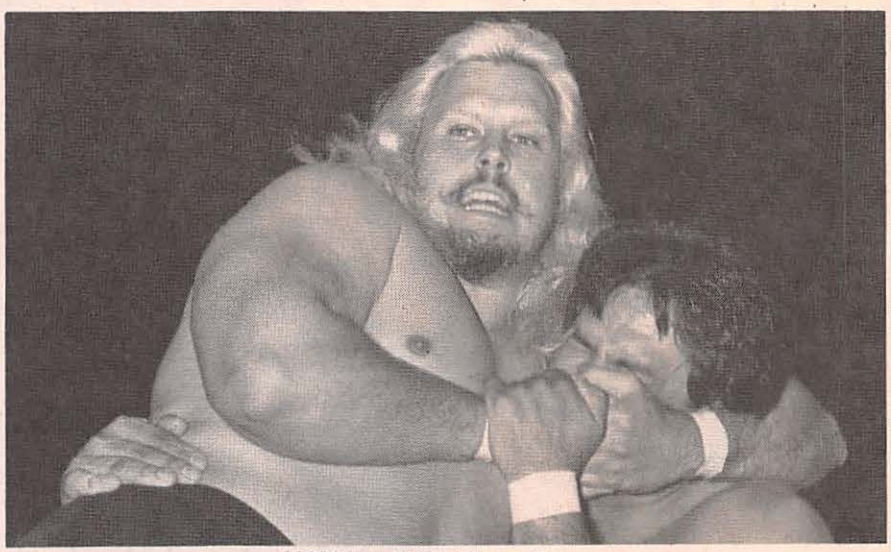
I understand Rosenbaum's morbid fascination with Honky Tonk; he's strange, he's entertaining, and he's fun to watch (Honky Tonk, not Rosenbaum). But is Honky Tonk the best I-C champion ever? Not by a longshot.

THE RETURN OF THE *PWI* T-SHIRT CONTEST

It's been a long time since I've run an installment of the *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* identify-the-mystery-wrestler T-shirt contest (December 1984 was, in fact, the last time it was done). In case you're not a longtime reader, here's the way it works:

Identify the wrestler in this photo, send me your guess as to whom you think it is, and make sure your guess reaches me by October 1, 1988. All correct answers will be placed in a box, and a winner will be chosen at random to receive a free *PWI* T-shirt. It's that simple.

I will give you one clue: This wrestler has held a championship belt somewhere in the sport at some time in 1988.



????? headlocks Chavo Guerrero

Send your guess (and your T-shirt size) to: In Focus, c/o *Pro Wrestling Illustrated,* Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571. The winner, and the identity of the wrestler in this photo, will be announced in the February 1989 edition of *PWI,* on sale Nov. 22.

AND AS LONG AS WE'RE GIVING AWAY T-SHIRTS . . .

Say what you will about Eddie Ellner's attitude toward the people who write him letters and the wrestlers he comments on, but give him a little credit for taste. At least where magazines are concerned.

Aside from having the remarkable presence of mind to be writing for *PWI*, Eddie also pays close attention to the non-wrestling material on the newsstand. About a year ago, he turned me on to a great new magazine titled *Spy,* a snidely irreverent monthly that focuses on the life and culture of New York City and its immediate surroundings. It's wonderful.

One of the most popular features in *Spy* is a little item called "Separated At Birth." It's become so popular that *Spy* is planning an upcoming book of these photo juxtapositions, and dozens of newspapers and magazines around the country have swiped the concept.

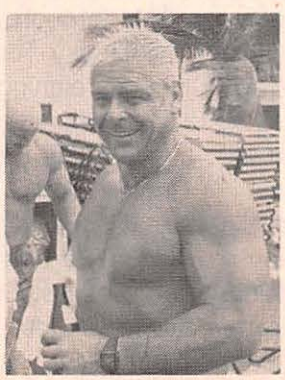
Now you can add *PWI* to that list.

I'm sure that loyal *PWI* readers can come up with dozens of "Separated At Birth" duos. If you have an idea of your own, send it to "In Focus" c/o *Pro Wrestling Illustrated,* Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571. If we can come up with the appropriate photos, we'll publish them in a future issue, and the person whose suggestion we use will receive a free *PWI* T-shirt. □

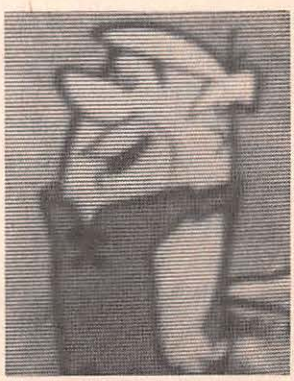
COULD THEY HAVE BEEN SEPARATED AT BIRTH?

WWF beauty queen Elizabeth . . .

. . . and 1988 Miss America Kaye Lani Rae Rafko.



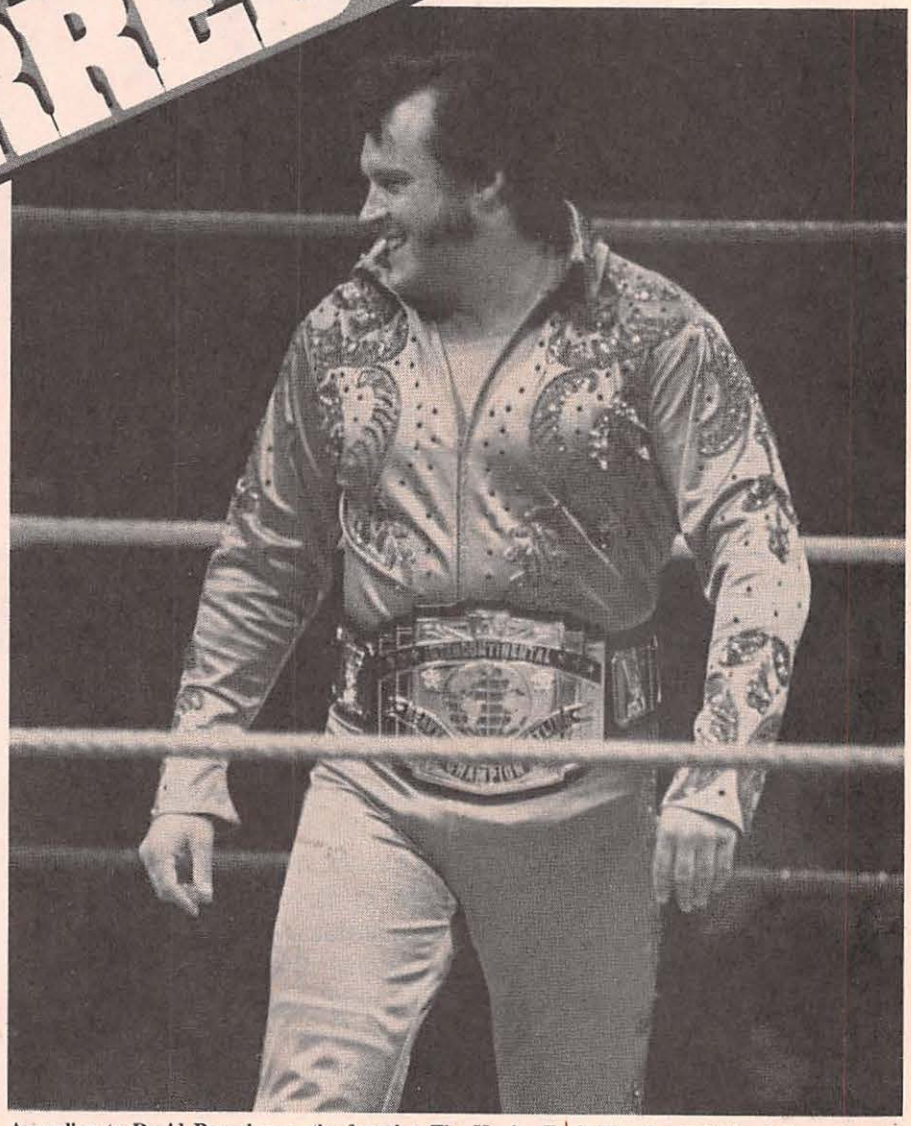
The Four Horsemen's new friend Ronnie Garvin . . .



. . . and Fred Flintstone's old friend Barney Rubble.

NO HOLDS BARRED

with David Rosenbaum



According to David Rosenbaum, the fact that The Honky Tonk Man has held the Intercontinental belt longer than any man in history makes him the greatest I-C champion ever.

THE HONKY Tonk Man is the greatest WWF Intercontinental champion of all time!

From now on that is a fact, not opinion, because when arguing such a point there's only one truly objective way to judge who's best: longevity. Say what you want about style, sportsmanship, overall wrestling ability, and quality of opposition, but that's only a small part of the picture. The bottom line is a champion's ability to retain his belt. In *that* department, there's never been a better I-C champ than Honky Tonk.

Of course, the average wrestling fan will jump up and down, bang his head against the wall, and scream bloody murder when told this, but it's nearly impossible to have a reasonable discussion about wrestling with Mr. Average Fan. After all, Randy Savage was a *lousy* wrestler and a vicious cheater until he joined forces with Hulk Hogan. And Mr. Average Fan *still* doesn't realize that Ted DiBiase is one of the greatest all-around wrestlers in the world.

So chew on this for a while: On Tuesday, August 2, The Honky Tonk Man celebrated his 426th day as Intercontinental champion, eclipsing by one day the record for longevity previously held by Pedro Morales (December 23, 1981, through January 22, 1983). The Honky Tonk Man is now the longest-reigning (read: "greatest") I-C champ ever.

What this means is that even if Honky Tonk loses his match against Brutus Beefcake at the August 29 Summer Slam in Madison Square Garden, he has defied the odds. He has done what the experts said he couldn't do. The "experts" were stunned when Honky Tonk won the belt from Rick Steamboat on June 2, 1987, in Buffalo; they said he'd lose the belt within a matter of days or weeks. But it *hasn't* happened. Despite the words of the "experts," Honky Tonk has kept his belt, and kept it longer than anyone before him.

He's been resourceful. Occasionally, he's been disqualified. Occasionally, manager Jimmy Hart's outside interference pre-

(Continued on page 56)

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LOOKING AT...

Matt Brock:

IT'S DEADLINE TIME again at *Pro Wrestling Illustrated,* and those snakes who call themselves my superiors here rejected the column that *should* have appeared in this space. This month, I wanted to take a long, hard look at women's wrestling, but those snakes—especially Managing Editor Craig Peters—wouldn't print my insights. What do I care? I've had stories bounced back more than once.

When I dropped in to pick up my paycheck and reconnect the dangling threads of journalistic comradeship, Peters gave me the news.

"Matt," he said, nervous as a 16-year-old groom, "we need another column from you right away."

Fine. Pumping out a column on deadline is how I got my reputation for jounalistic excellence. Peters knows that. He also knows I love a challenge—especially when I'm getting paid.

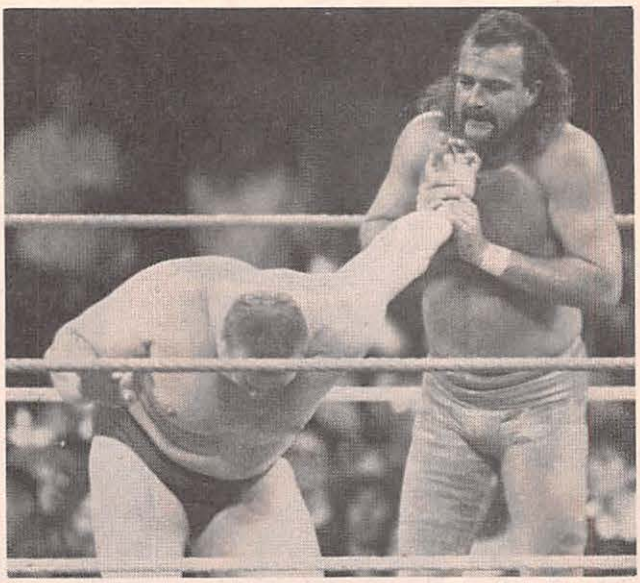
"... and we need it *fast!*" Peters said, slithering off to confer with Editor-in-Chief Stu Saks.

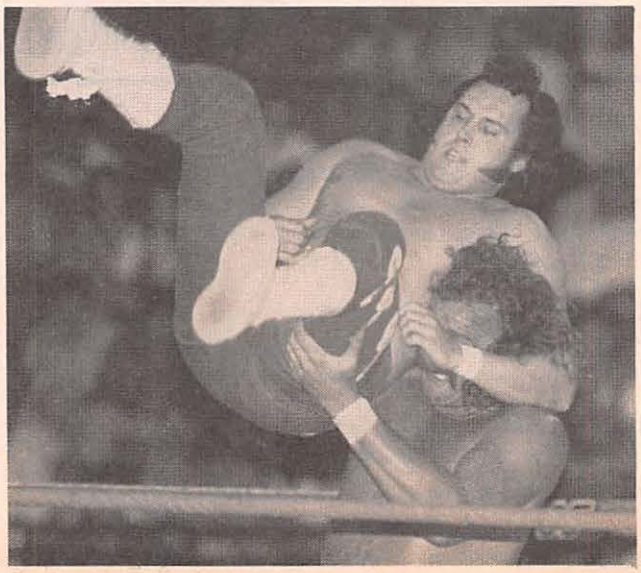
Well, the boys in the office were doing their best python imitations, squeezing the journalistic life's blood out of me, so I figured it was a good opportunity to discuss a wrestler who's been on my mind recently, Jake "The Snake" Roberts.

I've been watching Jake's matches closely, and I've seen a marked improvement in him.

In the past, I've come out strongly against Roberts and his python-swinging antics. I've never been a fan of pets—domesticated or otherwise—taking up space at ringside. Why The British Bulldogs, a team of considerable talent, still employ a mutt for a "manager" is completely beyond my comprehension (especially when it is their misguided concern for Matilda's well-being that often causes the Bulldogs to *lose* their matches).

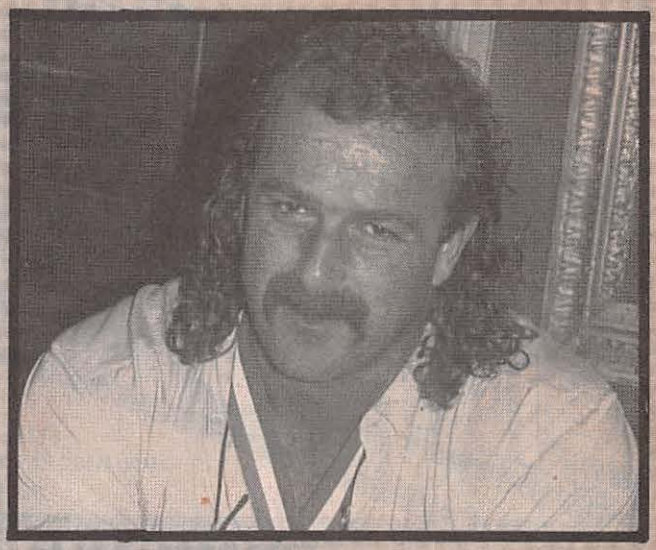
Iake and his python have fallen under my anti-

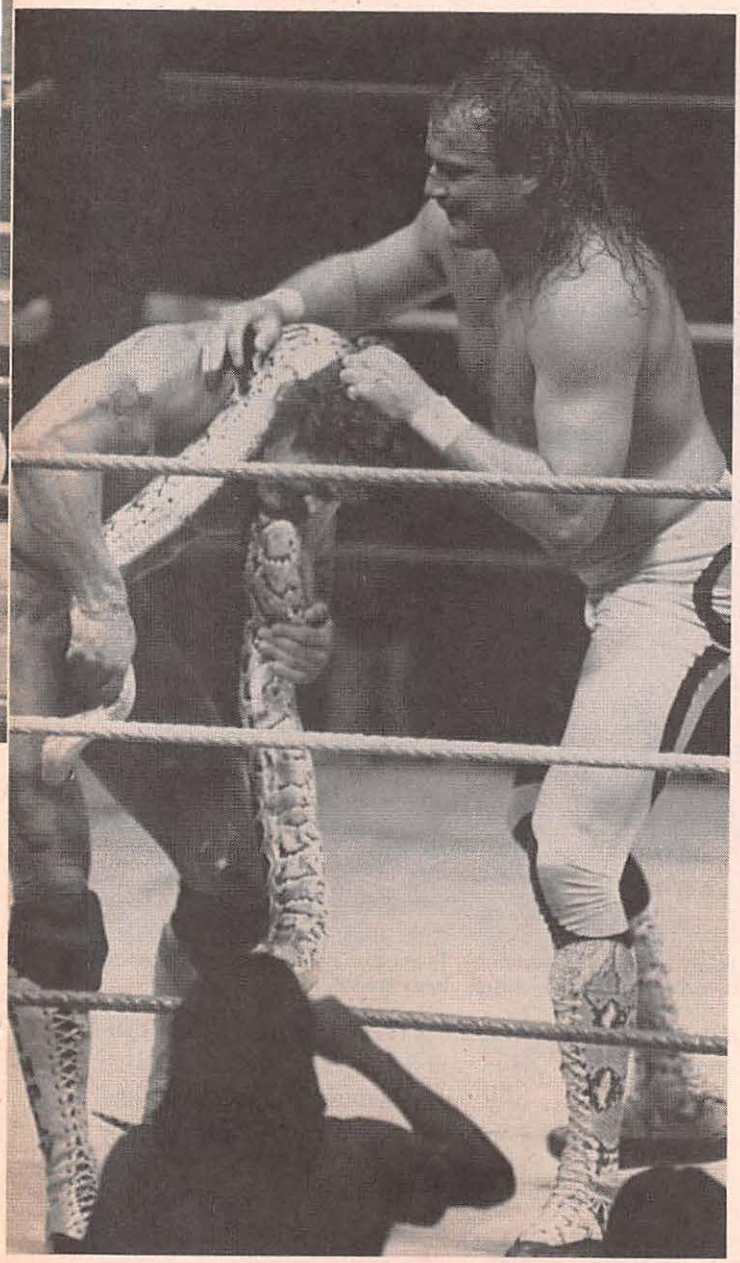




Roberts puts a wristlock on Nikolai Volkoff (above), then prepares to drop The Honky Tonk Man to the mat (below).

JAKE ROBERTS





Jake wraps his pet snake, Damien, around the head of archrival Rick Rude, who has been a marked man ever since he tried to kiss Roberts' wife, Cheryl.

animal wrath. I've always said that the energy he expends in trying to maneuver his opponent and his snake into the same vicinity could better be exploited simply trying to outwrestle the opponent.

More concerned with his snake than with winning matches, Roberts became complacent. He wasn't driving toward titles, he wasn't aggressive in his matches, he wasn't wrestling with the edge that he used to have years ago (such as when he was a member in Paul Ellering's Legion of Doom along with The Road Warriors). I'd seen it all too often before. Jake needed something to fire him up again.

Some men have cause to be courageous, others have that cause thrust upon them. In Roberts' case, the philandering of Rick Rude provided just the cause Jake needed.

I never liked Rick Rude. Any wrestler who neglects his talents in favor of egotistical womanizing is on a direct course to ultimate failure. Sure, when he's up against a weak opponent, all he can think about is kissing every woman in sight; but when he's matched against someone with talent, he quickly becomes preoccupied with his own safety.

Now, that safety is seriously imperiled. Ever since the now-famous Cheryl Roberts incident, Rude has been a marked man. I've never seen Jake wrestle with such intensity. I'd seen flashes, of course, but it's never been sustained. Call it love or just call it genuine masculinity, but whatever it is, Rick Rude is the target of Roberts' anger.

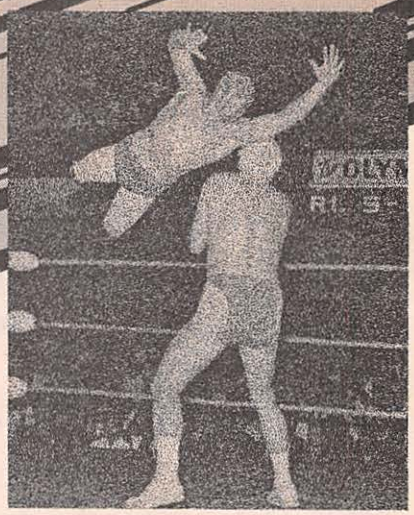
And that anger is not going to disappear overnight. As the egotistical Rude travels around the country—his tights emblazoned with Cheryl Roberts' visage—Jake follows him with an intensity that transcends wrestling.

If you attack Jake Roberts in the ring, that's one thing. Most likely you'll lose, but at least you'll *survive.* But go outside the ring and try to take what is his, and you'll unleash the fury of a wildman.

This time, Jake Roberts is protecting more than just his snake. It's his entire life on the line. □

BY EDDIE ELLNER

off the Top Rope



If you wish to contribute to Ellner's mailbag, send your letters to:

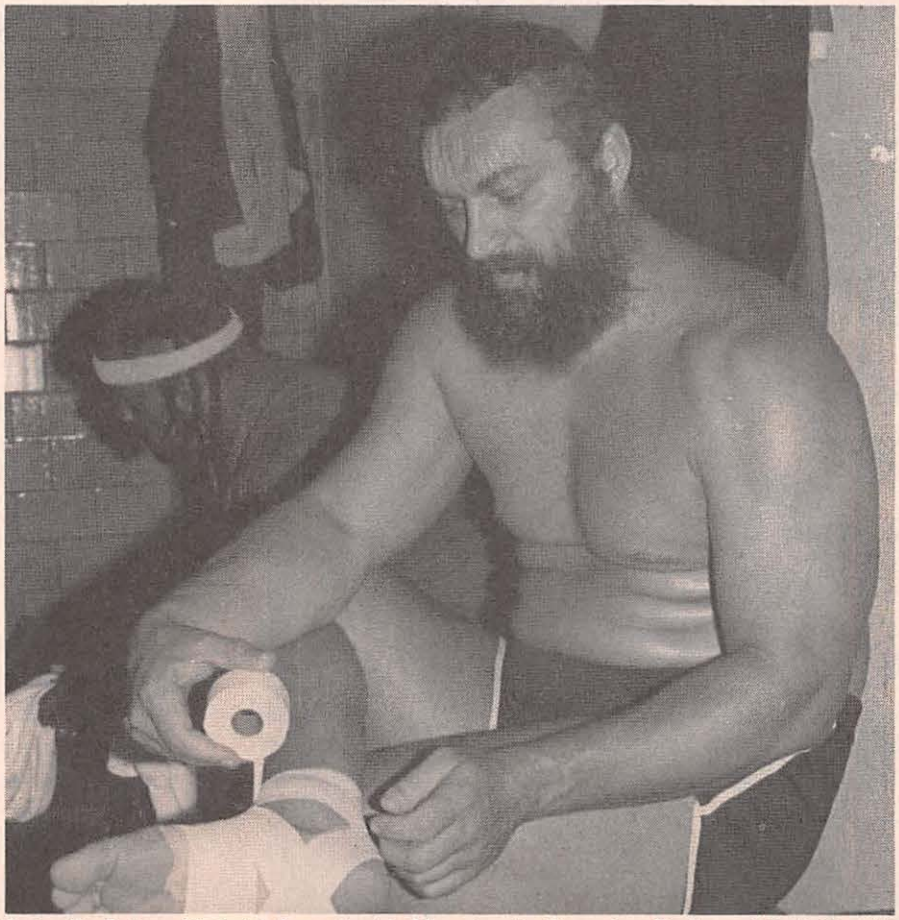
TOP ROPE, Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571

[Editor's note: The opinions expressed in this column are those of the letter writers and Eddie Ellner himself. They do not necessarily represent the editorial views of this magazine.]

IN RE-READING THE many newspaper and magazine accounts of Bruiser Brody's murder, my mind wanders a peculiar path. Midway through each story, around the time when Brody is called into the shower area where eventually he is stabbed to death, I fully expect him to grab his attacker, squeeze the knife from his hand, and saunter back into the dressing room unharmed. That the sequence of events fall differently never fails to astound me. It assaults my concept of a perfectly ordered universe. If Bruiser Brody can be taken in such a brazen, capricious, and indifferent manner, are any of us safe?

I used to think "tragedy" (or do I mean "travesty"?) meant watching Dusty Rhodes attempt a dropkick. I was careless. In this case, tragedy rates a dark province all its own. I've written this elsewhere, but it bears repeating: Save for the death of a child, there is nothing more tragic than the passing of a great man before his time. Bruiser Brody will be eulogized, and his memory will be honored by countless tributes. All I can think is this: A man is dead for no reason at all.

There is little else do to but go about one's business and pray Brody finds peace in the next arena. The mail please.



Bruiser Brody tapes his foot before a bout in Massachusetts. Everywhere Brody went, he lived up to the bigger-than-life legend that enveloped him. He will be deeply missed.

Mr. Ellner,

When I first saw your column in *PWI,* I thought anyone with his own column must be pretty smart. Reading your column confirmed my beliefs. You are a fine writer, despite the criticism you incur. You are criticized so often only because you're honest and don't play up to those trendy Hulkamaniacs.

A couple of months ago you suggested that Randy Savage should split with Hulk Hogan because, "nothing

(Continued on page 60)

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October 1982/COLOR PINUP: Jerry Lawler. **Ric Flair**, Rhodes, Graham, Race, Funk Jr.

January 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ken Patera. **Rick Steamboat**, Rich, Brody, Sullivan, Backlund.

February 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Putski. **Rhodes vs. Garvin**, Snuka, Super Destroyer, Bockwinkel, Funk.

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April 1983/COLOR PINUP: Superstar Graham. **Mil Mascaras**, Valentine, Orndorff, Hart.

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October 1983/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog. **Tommy Rich**, Johnson, Adonis, Rhodes, Piper.

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December 1983/COLOR PINUP: Wahoo McDaniel. **Dusty Rhodes**, Hayes, Steamboat, Hansen, DiBiase.

January 1984/COLOR PINUP: Harley Race. **Rick Martel,** Snuka, Freebirds, Dillon, Sawyer.

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July 1984/COLOR PINUP: Paul Ellering. **Jimmy Valiant,** JYD, Fab Ones, Gagne, Windham.

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October 1984/COLOR PINUP: Billy Jack. **Kerry Von Erich,** Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.

November 1984/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. **Sgt. Slaughter,** Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

January 1985/COLOR PINUP: Tito Santana. **Road Warriors,** Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

February 1985/COLOR PINUP: Magnum T.A. **Rick Martel,** Hogan, Backlund, Ellering.

April 1985/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin, **Jimmy Snuka**, Warriors, Gordy, Flair, Rhodes.

June 1985/COLOR PINUP: Barry Windham. **Dusty Rhodes,** Slaughter, Hogan, Von Erich, T.A.

July 1985/COLOR PINUP: Sgt. Slaughter. **Hogan vs. Piper,** Warriors, One Man Gang, T.A., Martel.

September 1985/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog. **Magnum T.A,** Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

October 1985/COLOR PINUP: Chris Adams. **Rick Steamboat,** Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

November 1985/COLOR PINUP: Randy Savage. **Ric Flair,** Slaughter, Steamboat, World Class scouting reports.

December 1985/COLOR PINUP: Jesse Ventura. **Great American Bash,** Von Erich, Orndorff, Williams & DiBiase.

January 1986/COLOR PINUP: Hacksaw Duggan. **Hulk Hogan,** T.A., Brody.

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PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED
IS WENDI RICHTER MORE POPULAR THAN HULK HOGAN?
PRESS CONFERENCE JIM CROCKETT

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April 1986/COLOR PINUP: Ric Flair. **Wendi Richter,** Adams & Hernandez, Dusty & Warriors vs. Flair & Andersons.

May 1986/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steamboat. **Road Warriors,** Humongous, Bulldogs, Hansen vs. Martel.

June 1986/COLOR PINUP: Kevin Von Erich. **Hulk Hogan,** Adams, Duggan, Scott Hall.

July 1986/COLOR PINUP: King Kong Bundy. **R & R Express,** Hall and Hennig, Ventura, Warriors.

August 1986/COLOR PINUP: Dusty Rhodes. **Randy Savage,** Lugar vs. Race, Blanchard vs. Flair, Rude.

October 1986/COLOR PINUP: John Studd. **Nikita Koloff,** Savage vs. Bundy, Landell, Flair vs. Lugar, Simpson.

November 1986/COLOR PINUP: Baby Doll. **British Bulldogs,** Von Erich, Hansen, Gordy, Flair-Tully-Arn-Ole.

December 1986/COLOR PINUP: Great American Bash. **Great American Bash,** Midnight Rockers, Von Erich, Windham.

January 1987/COLOR PINUP: Fabulous Freebirds. **Roddy Piper,** Nikita vs. T.A., Snuka, Simpson.

February 1987/COLOR PINUP: Savage & Elizabeth. **UWF Tournament,** T.A., Baby Doll, Hogan vs. Orndorff.

April 1987/COLOR PINUP: Lex Luger. **Dusty & Nikita,** DiBiase, DeBeers, Dingo, WWF Housecleaning.

May 1987/COLOR PINUP: Steve Williams. **Andre-Hogan,** UWF Tourny, Albano, Cornette, Dynamite Kid, Kerry.

June 1987/COLOR PINUP: Hulk Hogan. **Magnum T.A.,** Can-Ams, Warriors, Freebirds, Hall.

July 1987/COLOR PINUP: Midnight Rockers. **Steamboat-Savage,** Luger, Duggan, Garvins, Sting.

August 1987/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Precious. **Hogan-Andre,** Warriors, Windham-Flair, Gordy, Bigelow.

October 1987/COLOR PINUP: Ted DiBiase. **Ric Flair,** Williams, Rockers, Hogan vs. Steamboat, NWA & WWF.

November 1987/COLOR PINUP: George Steele. **Nikita Koloff,** Warriors, Harts, Hogan, Windham.

January 1988/COLOR PINUP: The Road Warriors. **Ted DiBiase,** Flair-Garvins, Hogan & Ventura, Zbyszko.

February 1988/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin. **Randy Savage,** Garvin-Flair, Von Erichs, Freebirds.

April 1988/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. **Lex Luger,** Flair-Garvin, Kerry, Survivor Series, Iron Sheik.

May 1988/COLOR PINUP: Sting. **Andre,** Valentine-Beefcake, Flair, Cornette, Owen Hart.

June 1988/COLOR PINUP: Tully Blanchard. **Hulk Hogan,** Muraco, Perez, Rockers, Bunkhouse Stampede.

July 1988/COLOR PINUP: Curt Hennig. **Hogan vs. Andre,** Express vs. Rockers, Beefcake, Perez, Rotundo-Sting.

August 1988/COLOR PINUP: Al Perez. **Savage & Hogan,** Gilbert-Lawler, Four Horsemen, Kerry Von Erich.

October 1988/COLOR PINUP: Ultimate Warrior. **Sting,** Savage, Lawler, Williams, Steamboat, Varsity Club.

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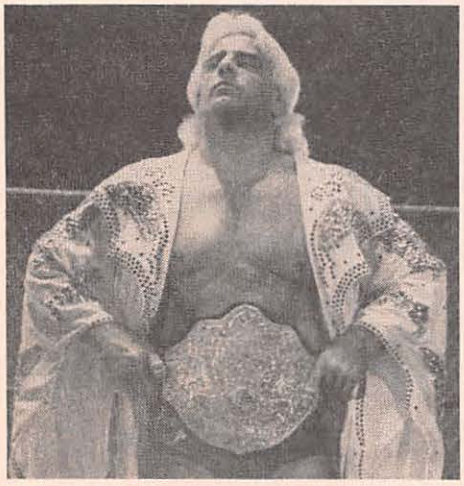
PWI's TOP 10



Ric Flair

TOP10

1. **RANDY SAVAGE**
   245, Sarasota, FL
   WWF World champion
2. **RIC FLAIR**
   243, Minneapolis, MN
   NWA World champion
3. **JERRY LAWLER**
   234, Memphis, TN
   AWA World champion
4. **TED DiBIASE**
   247, Omaha, NB
   No. 2 contender: WWF title
5. **LEX LUGER**
   268, Chicago, IL
   No. 2 contender: NWA title
6. **STING**
   260, Venice Beach, CA
   No. 3 contender: NWA title
7. **KERRY VON ERICH**
   260, Denton, TX
   World Class champion
8. **BARRY WINDHAM**
   236, Sweetwater, TX
   U.S. heavyweight champion
9. **HULK HOGAN**
   302, Venice Beach, CA
   No. 3 contender: WWF title
10. **THE HONKY TONK MAN**
    255, Memphis, TN
    WWF Intercontinental champion

TAG TEAMS

1. **TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON**
   Combined weight: 484 pounds
   NWA World tag team champions
2. **THE ROAD WARRIORS**
   Combined weight: 567 pounds
   No. 1 contenders: NWA tag team title
3. **DEMOLITION**
   Combined weight: 585 pounds
   WWF World tag team champions
4. **BOBBY EATON & STAN LANE**
   Combined weight: 453 pounds
   U.S. tag team champions
5. **WARLORD & BARBARIAN**
   Combined weight: 655 pounds
   No. 1 contenders: WWF tag team title
6. **THE FANTASTICS**
   Combined weight: 462 pounds
   No. 1 contenders: U.S. tag team title
7. **PAT TANAKA & PAUL DIAMOND**
   Combined weight: 456 pounds
   AWA World tag team champions
8. **THE HART FOUNDATION**
   Combined weight: 515 pounds
   No. 2 contenders: WWF tag team title
9. **KERRY & KEVIN VON ERICH**
   Combined weight: 495 pounds
   World Class tag team champions
10. **JACQUES & RAYMOND ROUGEAU**
    Combined weight: 490 pounds
    No. 3 contenders: WWF tag team title

NWA

World Champion:
RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN

1. **BARRY WINDHAM** *236, Sweetwater, TX*
2. **LEX LUGER** *268, Chicago, IL*
3. **STING** *260, Venice Beach, CA*
4. **DUSTY RHODES** *302, Austin, TX*
5. **STEVE WILLIAMS** *265, Norman, OK*
6. **NIKITA KOLOFF** *275, Moscow, Russia*
7. **AL PEREZ** *238, Tampa, FL*
8. **MIKE ROTUNDO** *245, Syracuse, NY*
9. **RONNIE GARVIN** *231, Montreal, Quebec*
10. **JIMMY GARVIN** *235, Tampa, FL*

WWF

World Champion:
RANDY SAVAGE
245, Sarasota, FL

1. **THE HONKY TONK MAN** *255, Memphis, TN*
2. **TED DiBIASE** *247, Omaha, NB*
3. **HULK HOGAN** *302, Venice Beach, CA*
4. **ANDRE THE GIANT** *497, Grenoble, France*
5. **THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR** *280, Queens, NY*
6. **BRUTUS BEEFCAKE** *273, San Francisco, CA*
7. **HACKSAW DUGGAN** *280, Glens Falls, NY*
8. **JAKE ROBERTS** *246, Stone Mountain, GA*
9. **RICK RUDE** *246, Robbinsdale, MN*
10. **DON MURACO** *274, Sunset Beach, HI*

AWA

World Champion:
JERRY LAWLER
234, Memphis, TN

1. **GREG GAGNE** *220, Robbinsdale, MN*
2. **SOLDAT USTINOV** *265, Moscow, Russia*
3. **WAHOO McDANIEL** *280, Midland, TX*
4. **EDDIE GILBERT** *222, Lexington, TN*
5. **MANNY FERNANDEZ** *245, El Paso, TX*
6. **AUSTIN IDOL** *240, Las Vegas, NV*
7. **PHIL HICKERSON** *257, Jackson, TN*
8. **BARON VON RASCHKE** *271, Berlin, Germany*
9. **MANDO GUERRERO** *225, Mexico City, MEX*
10. **TEIJHO KHAN** *265, Singapore*

WORLD CLASS

World Class Champion:
KERRY VON ERICH
260, Denton, TX

1. **KEVIN VON ERICH** *235, Denton, TX*
2. **KAMALA** *360, Uganda*
3. **ICEMAN PARSONS** *245, St. Louis, MO*
4. **ERIC EMBRY** *225, Lexington, KY*
5. **STEVE CASEY** *230, San Antonio, TX*
6. **BUDDY ROBERTS** *247, Del City, OK*
7. **MICHAEL HAYES** *255, Marietta, GA*
8. **TERRY GORDY** *289, Chattanooga, TN*
9. **BLACK BART** *261, Pampa, TX*
10. **BILL IRWIN** *250, Duluth, MN*

OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings.

For period ended August 5, 1988

MOST POPULAR

1. **HULK HOGAN**
   302, Venice Beach, CA
   Last month: unrated
2. **RANDY SAVAGE**
   245, Sarasota, FL
   Last month: No. 1 Most Popular
3. **STING**
   260, Venice Beach, CA
   Last month: No. 3 Most Popular
4. **LEX LUGER**
   268, Chicago, IL
   Last month: No. 2 Most Popular
5. **DUSTY RHODES**
   302, Austin, TX
   Last month: No. 6 Most Popular
6. **JAKE ROBERTS**
   246, Stone Mountain, GA
   Last month: unrated
7. **HACKSAW DUGGAN**
   280, Glens Falls, NY
   Last month: No. 4 Most Popular
8. **JERRY LAWLER**
   234, Memphis, TN
   Last month: No. 5 Most Popular
9. **KERRY VON ERICH**
   260, Denton, TX
   Last month: No. 7 Most Popular
10. **THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
    280, Queens, NY
    Last month: No. 8 Most Popular

MOST HATED

1. **ANDRE THE GIANT**
   497, Grenoble, France
   Last month: No. 1 Most Hated
2. **RIC FLAIR**
   243, Minneapolis, MN
   Last month: No. 3 Most Hated
3. **TED DiBIASE**
   247, Omaha, NB
   Last month: No. 4 Most Hated
4. **BARRY WINDHAM**
   236, Sweetwater, TX
   Last month: No. 2 Most Hated
5. **RICK RUDE**
   246, Robbinsdale, MN
   Last month: No. 5 Most Hated
6. **THE HONKY TONK MAN**
   255, Memphis, TN
   Last month: No. 6 Most Hated
7. **EDDIE GILBERT**
   222, Lexington, TN
   Last month: No. 7 Most Hated
8. **RONNIE GARVIN**
   231, Montreal, Quebec
   Last month: unrated
9. **MANNY FERNANDEZ**
   245, El Paso, TX
   Last month: unrated
10. **GREG VALENTINE**
    243, Seattle, WA
    Last month: unrated

CUMULATIVE RATINGS

These ratings are based on the past 10 issues of this magazine. We have examined our ratings for each of those issues—in our Top 10 and Tag Team categories only—and assigned each position a point value: 10 points for a number-one rating, nine for a number-two ranking, and so on down to one point for a number-10 rating. The point values for all wrestlers in the past 10 issues have been compiled, allowing a maximum of 100 points. Each issue we'll present the top five finishers in each category. While our regular ratings reflect the past month, these cumulative ratings give an indication of wider trends in the sport.

SINGLES

1—RIC FLAIR ..... 95 points
2—RANDY SAVAGE ..... 73 points
3—HULK HOGAN ..... 55 points
4—LEX LUGER ..... 51 points
5—STING ..... 36 points

TAG TEAMS

1—THE ROAD WARRIORS ..... 90 points
2—TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON ... 81 points
3—BOBBY EATON & STAN LANE ..... 62 points
4—DEMOLITION ..... 49 points
5—RICK MARTEL & TITO SANTANA ..... 45 points

STAMPEDE

North American Champion:
MAKHAN SINGH
380, Saginaw, MI

1—**JOHNNY SMITH**
235, Manchester, England
2—**STEVE DiSALVO**
298, Boston, MA
3—**CHRIS BENOIT**
218, Edmonton, Alberta
4—**STEVE BLACKMAN**
250, Pittsburgh, PA
5—**BRUCE HART**
211, Calgary, Alberta
6—**BRIAN PILLMAN**
226, Cincinnati, OH
7—**VULKAN SINGH**
300, Billings, MT
8—**LANCE IDOL**
225, Hollywood, CA
9—**JERRY MORROW**
235, Martinique
10—**GAMA SINGH**
220, Karachi, Pakistan

CWA

CWA Champion:
PHIL HICKERSON
257, Jackson, TN

1—**MAX PAIN**
350, Iowa City, IA
2—**BRICKHOUSE BROWN**
225, Winter Haven, FL
3—**ROBERT FULLER**
238, Dyresburg, TN
4—**SCOTT STEINER**
235, Detroit, MI
5—**JEFF JARRETT**
200, Hendersonville, TN
6—**GARY YOUNG**
240, Houston, TX
7—**JIMMY GOLDEN**
235, Montgomery, AL
8—**JIMMY VALIANT**
251, New York, NY
9—**BUDDY LANDELL**
236, Los Angeles, CA
10—**THE GREAT SENSHE**
265, Tokyo, Japan

CONTINENTAL

Continental Champion:
TITLE VACANT
To be filled in elimination tourney

1—**EDDIE GILBERT**
222, Lexington, TN
2—**AUSTIN IDOL**
240, Las Vegas, NV
3—**LORD HUMONGOUS**
325, parts unknown
4—**KEN WAYNE**
208, Memphis, TN
5—**TOM PRICHARD**
220, Houston, TX
6—**SHANE DOUGLAS**
223, Pittsburgh, PA
7—**TONY ANTHONY**
235, Bucksnorth, TN
8—**WILLIE B. HERT**
238, El Paso, TX
9—**DAN DAVIS**
238, Nashville, TN
10—**MR. OLYMPIA**
242, parts unknown

WINDY CITY WRESTLING

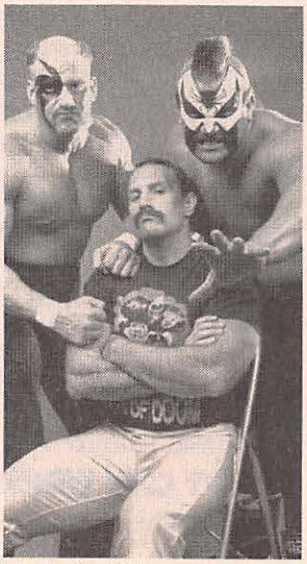
Windy City Champion:
STEVE REGAL
223, Indianapolis, IN

1—**COL. DeBEERS**
248, Cape Town, South Africa
2—**BAM BAM BIGELOW**
368, Mt. Laurel, NJ
3—**NORD THE BARBARIAN**
316, Bozeman, MT
4—**LARRY CAMERON**
270, Chicago, IL
5—**EDDIE GILBERT**
222, Lexington, TN
6—**TERMINATOR RIGS**
255, parts unknown
7—**DENNIS CONDREY**
256, Marietta, GA
8—**RANDY ROSE**
246, Pensacola, FL
9—**MIGHTY THOR**
268, parts unknown
10—**ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER**
360, Khartoum, Sudan

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 135 wrestlers in 12 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

The Road Warriors are angry! And when The Road Warriors get angry, you find out about it in a hurry. Actually, **Hawk**, **Animal**, and their brilliant manager **Paul Ellering** have been mad for about three months. But, in Hawk's words, "we thought you guys made *another* mistake, so we let it slide." Then the Warriors ran into Senior Editor **Bill Apter** in Philadelphia and made their feelings known.



The Legion Of Doom

"Hey, Apter," Ellering said when he spotted Bill in the Civic Center dressing room. "What's the story with you guys making **Tully Blanchard** and **Arn Anderson** number one in those worthless tag team ratings of yours? It's been three months now, and my boys are getting a little tired of it. And you know what happens when my boys start getting restless!"

Just as Bill told Ellering that the current issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* would make it *four*—not three—consecutive months that the Warriors weren't number one in the tag team ratings, Hawk and Animal emerged from the trainer's room. "They looked like they were about to kill somebody," said Apter, "and I thought for a second that that somebody was *me*."

Bill explained that the ratings are based on won-lost records, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of the team. He conceded that the Warriors are a more skilled team than Blanchard and Anderson, but added that the NWA World tag champs are riding a solid unbeaten streak against the best teams in the federation. The Warriors, meanwhile, have been involved in scaffold matches against **Ivan Koloff** and **The Russian Assassin**, who clearly stand a notch below "The Legion of Doom."

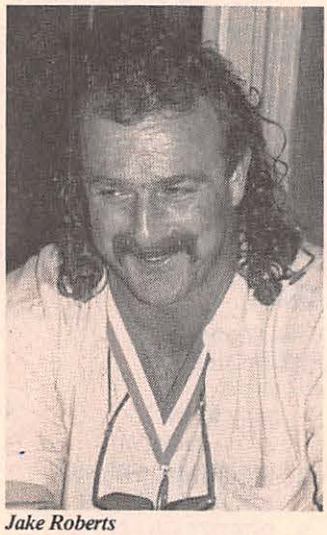
Unfortunately, Apter's explanation didn't wash with the Warriors. "That's a load of crap," Animal growled. "Let's see you get up on that scaffold, wimp. Blanchard and Anderson would be easy prey for us if we *wanted* the tag belts, but we've got business to take care of. You can't honestly sit there and say that Blanchard and Anderson would survive five minutes in the ring with us."

The Warriors, of course, might simply be taking their frustrations out on Apter. They are still bothered about losing the All-Japan International tag team belts to **Jumbo Tsuruta** and **Yoshiaki Yatsu** in June. Although they publicly gloat about running **The Powers of Pain** out of the NWA, they'll privately admit that they never had the chance to satisfactorily whip **Warlord** and **Barbarian** prior to their departure.

And they dearly want the NWA World tag team belts. Don't believe otherwise. Any team with the competitive instinct of the Warriors feels the need for those championship belts.

Something new. Why are some wrestlers popular? This month, "Ratings Analysis" takes a look at the "Most Popular" ratings to try to get some answers. Next month, a look at the "Most Hated" category.

When **Hulk Hogan** took a brief vacation from wrestling, it was thought that attendance at WWF arenas would drop drastically. Such has not been the case, thanks to new World champion **Randy Savage**, the most popular wrestler in the land. Machomania has been a more than adequate replacement for Hulkamania in the eyes of the fans ... Did everybody hear the reaction for **Sting** at the Baltimore Great American Bash? Undoubtedly, Sting received the loudest ovation of the night.. He's taken the NWA by storm! ... Many people thought that **Lex Luger** was robbed in his match against NWA World champion **Ric Flair**, and that will add to his popularity. The female fans love his good looks; the male fans are awed by his power ... **Jake "The Snake" Roberts** came to the rescue of his wife **Cheryl**, started a war against **Rick Rude**, and gained a new legion of followers ... **Dusty Rhodes**, perennially popular, charmed even those that *don't* watch wrestling with his Mello Yello TV commercial ... **Hacksaw Duggan** can excite a crowd like few other wrestlers. He keeps the fans screaming for entire matches ... **Jerry "The King" Lawler** has picked up new fans and new respect with his decision to defend the AWA World title in several federations ... **Kerry Von Erich's** popularity has waned since 1984, but "The Modern-Day Warrior" still has the Von Erich charisma, charm, and good looks ... As far as the ladies are concerned, **The Ultimate Warrior** is the most popular man in the WWF ... And **Kevin Von Erich** showed why the Von Erichs are so popular when he "wrestled" in a charity match against two-year-old **Jessica McClure**.



Jake Roberts

Everyone knows it's windy ... Windy City Wrestling, that is, which makes its first appearance in our revolving ratings category this month. Operating out of Chicago and throughout Illinois, Windy City is one of the newest federations in the sport, yet boasts some outstanding talent, including **Bam Bam Bigelow** (recently departed from the WWF), the legendary **Abdullah the Butcher**, and **Paul E. Dangerously's** army, including **Eddie Gilbert**. The Windy City heavyweight champion is **Steve Regal**.

Should the Warriors be on top? Why do you hate the wrestlers you hate? And why do you love the wrestlers you love? Speak out! The address for mail is: "Ratings Analysis" c/o *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571. □

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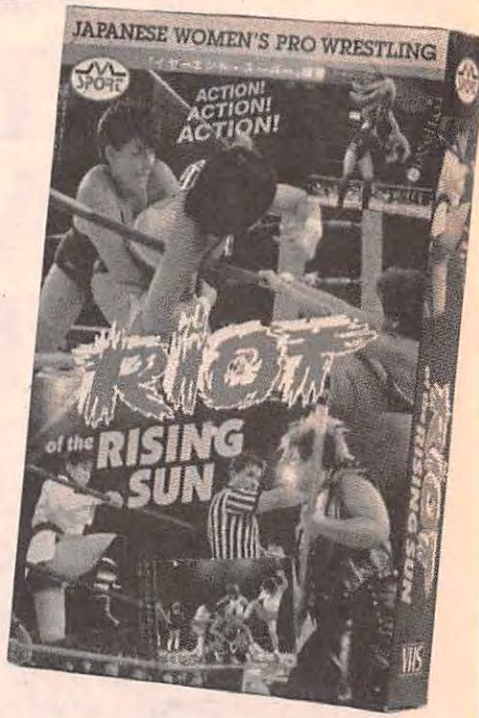
Sample The Excitement!

Jaguar Yokota, The Crush Girls, Devil Masami, The Jumping Bomb Angels, Dump Matsumoto—these are the legends of Japanese women's wrestling. They're all here, and more—including American superstar Wendi Richter. These matches, direct from Japanese television, include the kind of action that, until now, only satellite dish owners or Japanese fans could enjoy. These tapes are certain to become valued collectors' items. They include *complete* matches, not match excerpts!



Slant-Eyed Slaughter

(running time: approximately 70 minutes)

- Wendi Richter & "Devil" Masami vs. Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori & Okumura
- Nancy Kumi vs. Lucy Kayama
- Monster Ripper & "Devil" Masami vs. Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori & Mimi Hagiwara
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. Tarantula
- "Crush Girl" Lioness Asuka vs. "Crush Girl" Chigusa Nagayo

Riot Of The Rising Sun

(running time: approximately 70 minutes)

- Yukari Omori & Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori vs. Noriyo Tateno & Itysuki Yamasaki—"The Jumping Bomb Angels"
- Masked You & Kaoru "Dump" Matsumoto vs. Lioness Asuka & Chigusa Nagayo—"The Crush Girls"
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. Las Galactia
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. "Devil" Masami

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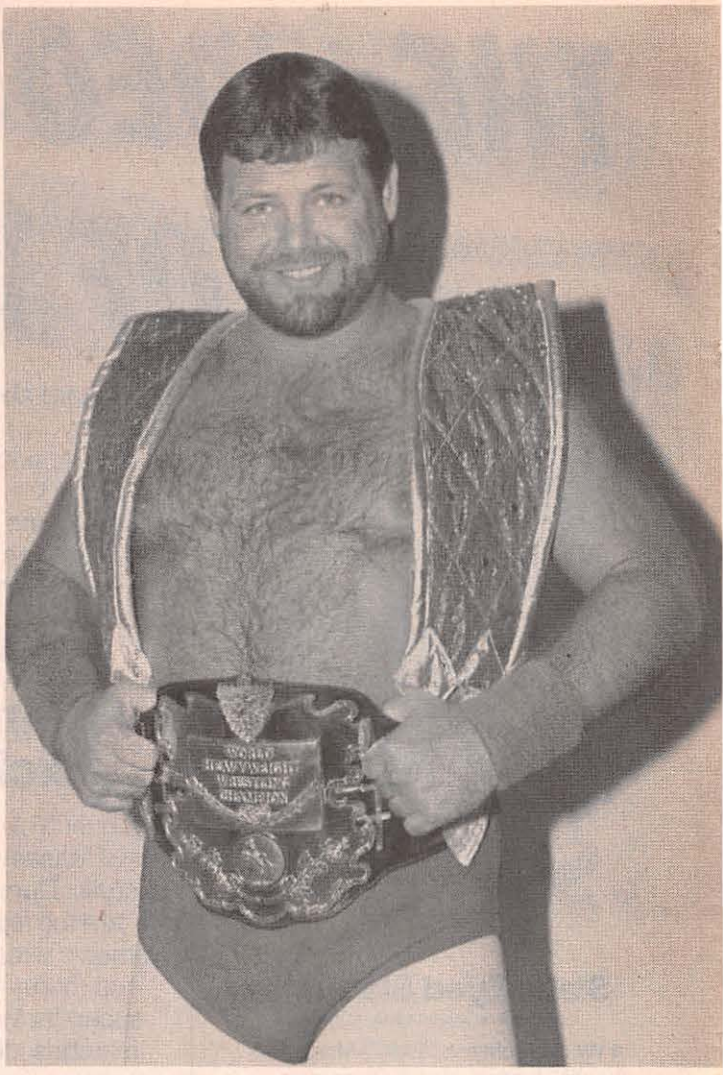
AWA World Champ Jerry Lawler:

"I'VE BEATEN SAVAGE AND FLAIR

I'M THE BEST!"



The sweet memories of past victories make Jerry Lawler feel that he is the one *real* world champion. Because back in 1985, the current AWA champ defeated both Ric Flair and Randy Savage

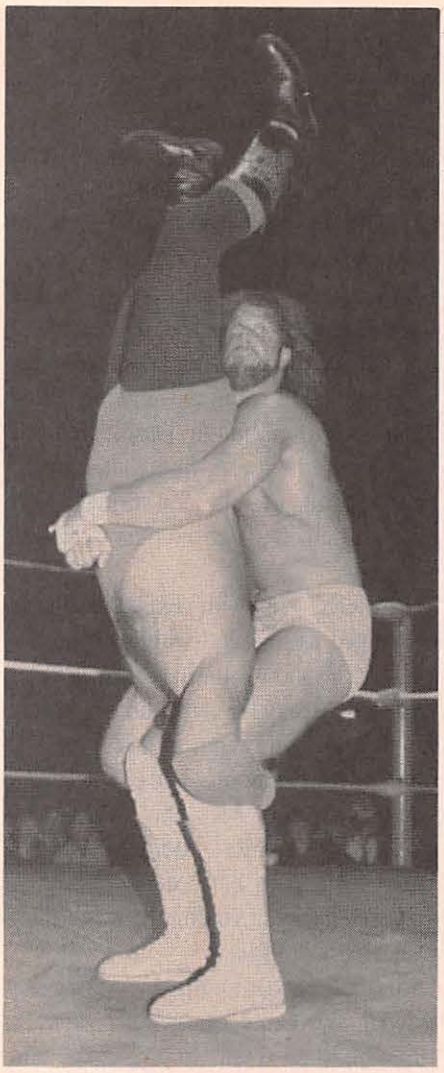
"The driving force behind the Lawler-Savage feud is not money, nor is it a championship, although both are fighting hard for the Mid-Southern belt. These men are not fighting for some intangible, like prestige or glory or fame. Savage and Lawler are beating the hell out of each other because of hate, pure and simple."

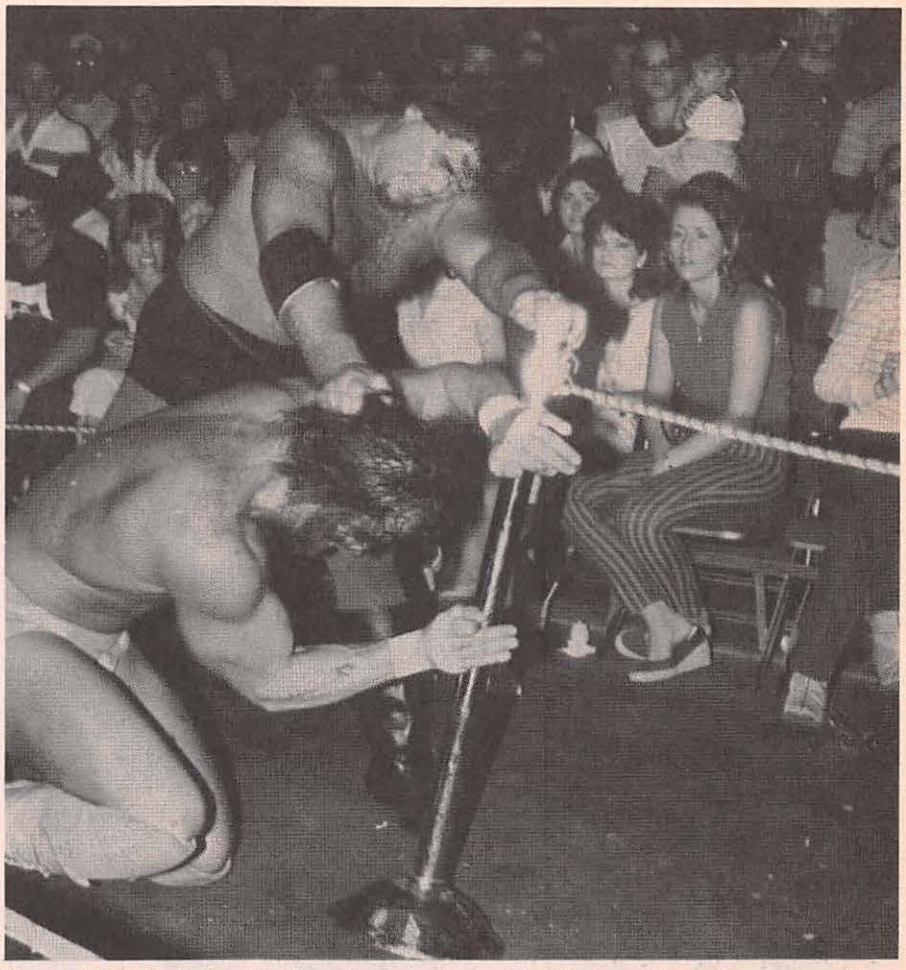
—The Wrestler, **September 1985**

THAT WAS THEN. Back in 1985, Jerry Lawler talked about his desire to humiliate Randy Savage, to rip him to shreds and run him out of Memphis for good. Lawler didn't care if he lost an individual match to Savage. "The King" was willing to risk disqualification for the sheer pleasure of getting another punch in or drawing another drop of blood from "The Macho Man."

This is now. After years of effort, Lawler is a world champion. He proudly wears the AWA championship belt around his waist. He has taken that belt to the CWA, CWF, and World Class areas to defend it against other champions and contenders in an attempt to prove that *his* title is the *real* world title. But the one match he can't have—against the NWA or WWF World champion to prove *true* title supremacy—makes him think back to his past.

It makes him remember that for all the bloodshed and twisted limbs in his feud against Savage, for all the challenges exchanged and the profanities shouted, subtly lost in the midst of the carnage was victory, sweet victory over



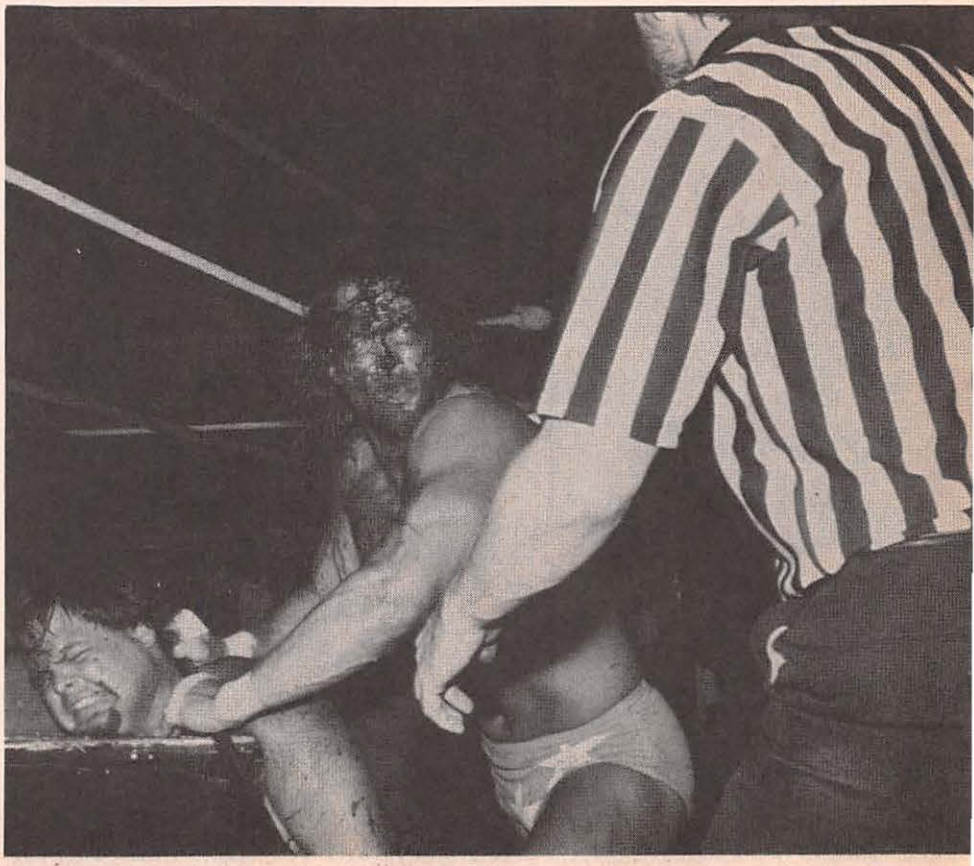


Current AWA World champion Jerry Lawler and current WWF champ Randy Savage engaged in a violent Mid-Southern area feud in 1985. "The Macho Man" piledrives Lawler (above left) and Lawler retaliates by bashing Savage's head into the ring railing (above). Bloodied but not beaten, Savage tries to choke "The King" (below).

the man who now calls himself WWF World champion.

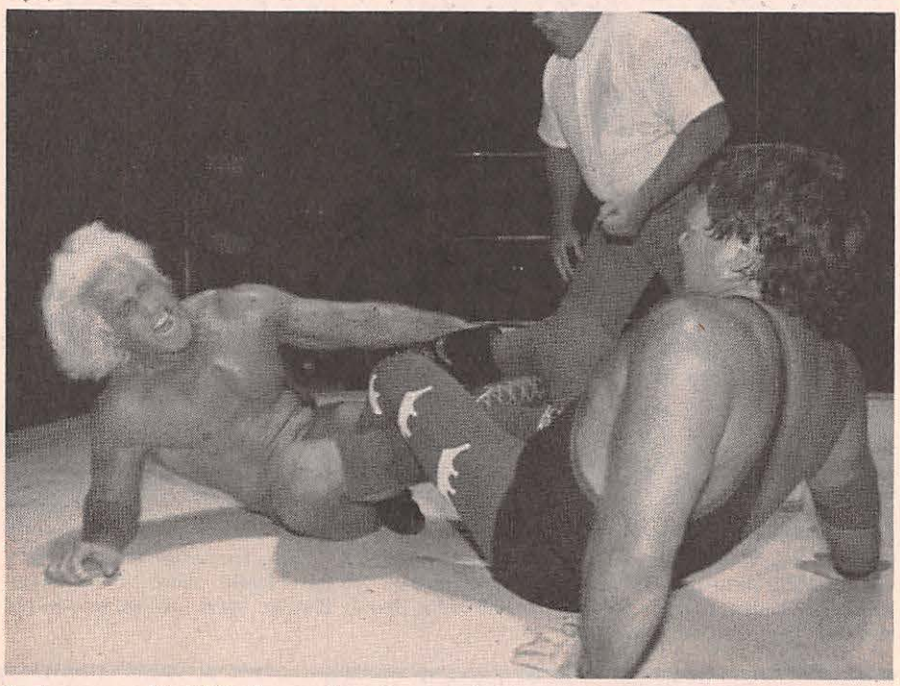
"I beat Savage," Lawler now says proudly. "I beat Ric Flair, too. And you know what that means? It means that I'm the best. When I wrestled Flair back in 1985, I knew that he was a great wrestler, but I also knew that I could beat him. Although I never was able to pin him, I came awfully close quite a few times and would've beaten him if he didn't manage to get himself disqualified. As for Savage, well, I never would've dreamed that he'd become World champion one day. To put it bluntly, I kicked his butt."

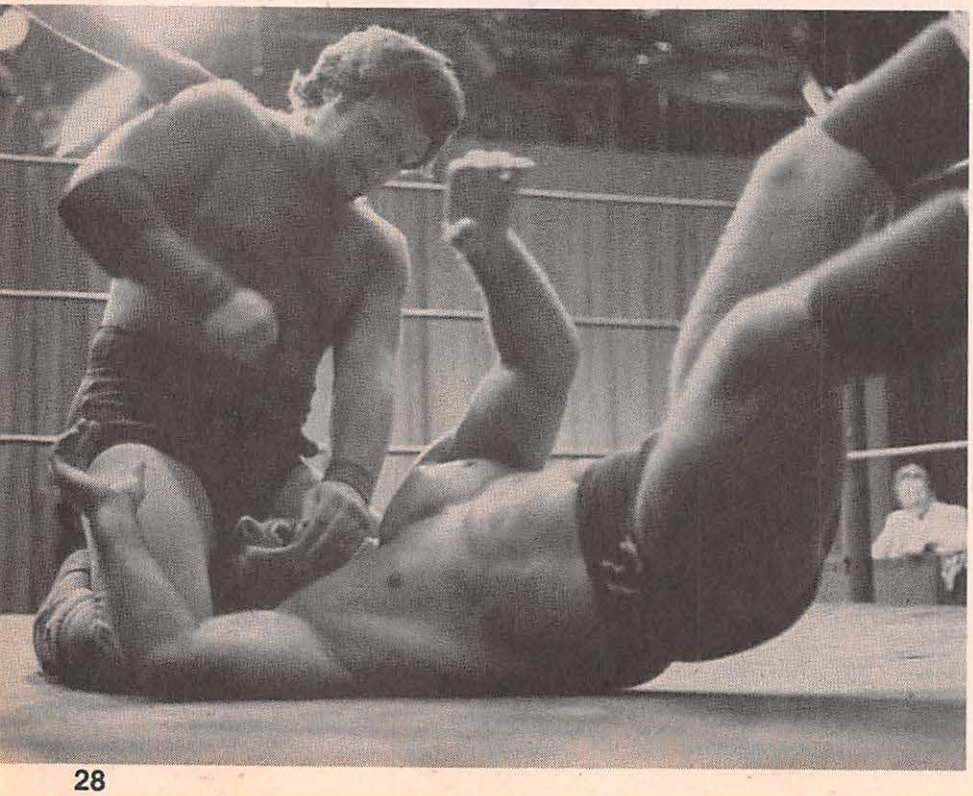
The Savage-Lawler war was one of the most brutal in Memphis history. At the time, Tux Newman, not the beautiful Elizabeth, managed "The Macho Man." He was simply Randy Savage, a vicious, rulebreaking beast who, as the September 1985 issue of *The Wrestler* pointed out, "[resembled] the king of the jungle."



Most Savage-Lawler battles followed a similar pattern: The two men would square off in the ring, both with the thirst for blood in their eyes, and then, after the bell rang, would tear into each other with the tenacity of wild animals. Moments later, the action would spill outside the ring where Lawler and Savage would take turns banging each other into the ringposts, ringside tables, and the arena floor. Finally, with both men bloody but still hungry, the referee would call for the bell and declare a double-countout. Then Savage and Lawler would return to the dressing room to get stiched up by doctors.

It was a feud that even Savage's brother Lanny Poffo didn't understand. "When he [Savage] is in the same ring with Jerry Lawler," Poffo said, "I feel as if I'm watching a battle out of the Middle Ages." Despite the intensity of these battles, however, neither man was ever able to score a clean pinfall. Then, in late 1985, Savage signed a contract with the WWF. The Lawler-Savage feud came to an end. But before it did, Lawler won several matches by disqualification.





Lawler reverses Ric Flair's famous figure-four leglock (above) and pounds a helpless Flair (below). Lawler battled the NWA World champion several times in Memphis during 1985, but failed to win his title.

"Looking back, those were some of the greatest victories of my life," Lawler said. "I didn't pin him, but when that bell rang, the referee raised my hand, not his, and I walked back to the dressing room a winner. I hated Savage, and although people tell me he's changed now, I find that hard to believe. But there's one thing I bet hasn't changed—I *know* that I can still beat him."

Lawler's war with Flair wasn't as prolonged as his feud with Savage, nor was it as vicious. In fact, Lawler and Flair met only a few times during Flair's third title reign in 1985. In one of their most famous battles, before a sellout crowd in Memphis' Mid-South Coliseum, Lawler dominated the World champion but became frustrated and was disqualified for throwing Flair over the top rope.

In another memorable battle, Lawler was on the verge of victory when he elbowsmashed Flair to the mat and covered him for the pin. Flair, however, managed to hook his foot over the bottom rope at the two-count. Both men returned to their feet and faced off, but Flair, realizing his belt was in danger, backed into the turnbuckle and climbed to the middle rope. A closed-fist punch by Lawler sent Flair sprawling backward to the mat, where he was counted out by the referee.

"That's one match I'll never forget, because Flair was beaten," said Lawler, "and it's the one I always bring up when people say to me, 'Jerry, do you think you could beat Flair?' Well, I did. And like I said, I beat Savage, too. Maybe a few years have passed since then, but let's face it, how much has *really* changed? Of course, I'm now the AWA World champion, and if you want to get right down to it, I'm *the* world champion. I've beaten them all.

"And if Flair and Savage think overwise, I'm right here waiting for them." □

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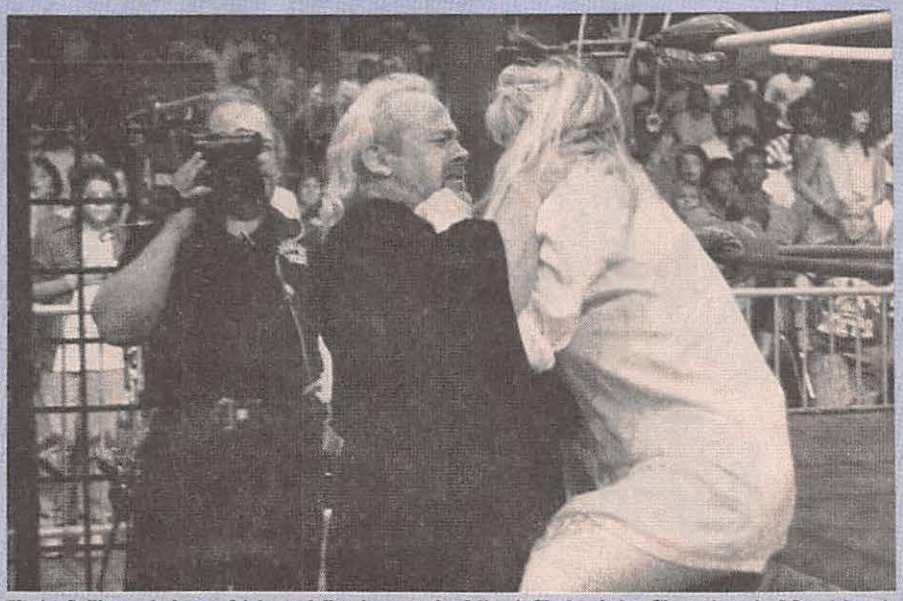
Every issue, reporters from PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED will participate in an incisive press conference with a top wrestling star. The questions will be demanding. And the answers will reveal the innermost thoughts of the giants of the sport.

PRESS CONFERENCE PRECIOUS

LIFE HASN'T BEEN too easy for Precious lately. The famous valet of "Gorgeous" Jimmy Garvin was voted the best in the sport by the readers of ***Pro Wrestling Illustrated*** *in our 100th issue (December 1987), but since then she's had more trouble than at any time in her career. For that, she can thank Kevin Sullivan.*

By now, most wrestling fans know what happened to the beautiful blonde. She was kidnapped by Sullivan, the leader of The Varsity Club, after a match in Tallahassee, Florida, several months ago. Afterward, the change in her behavior was startling. She started having trouble with Garvin, and had to be led away from ringside during Sullivan's matches a number of times. Usually one of the most confident and stable personalities in the sport, Precious had become distraught and uncooperative with those around her.

Finally, Garvin had the chance to avenge his valet—and wife, as it became known—during the "Tower of Doom" match at the Great American Bash July 10 in Baltimore. At the end of this thrilling five-on-five encounter, Sullivan brazenly locked himself in the cage with Precious and attempted to strangle her. But Garvin rescued Precious from the cage while Road Warrior Hawk thrashed Sullivan. Revenge was sweet, but Precious insists she's not through with Sullivan yet.



Kevin Sullivan chokes a frightened Precious at the Miami Clash of the Champions in May (above). Two months later, she found herself locked in a cage with Sullivan at the Baltimore Great American Bash (opposite page), but she would be rescued by Road Warrior Hawk and Jimmy Garvin.

Editor-In-Chief Stu Saks, Associate Editor David Rosenbaum, and Assistant Editor Bob Smith traveled to Atlanta, where they joined Precious for a luncheon at a posh restaurant. Surprisingly, she insisted that Jimmy Garvin not be present for what promised to be one of the most revealing interviews of the year.

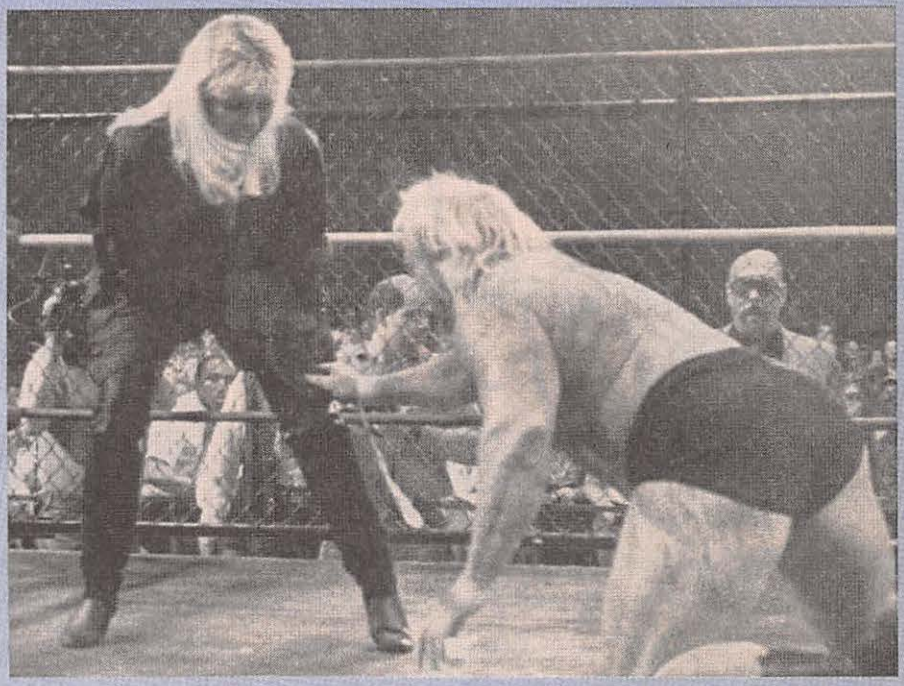
"Sullivan was up to no good, just like he always is. He didn't hurt me and he didn't touch me. Let's just say we had a discussion. That's all I'm gonna say about it."

STU SAKS: Precious, we want to thank you for inviting us here today. Originally, we wanted to meet with both you and Jimmy, but when we contacted you, you insisted that we meet you alone. Why was that?

PRECIOUS: That's because I have a lot to say about all this stuff that's been going on lately. You've known me for a long time, Stu, and you know I've always prided myself on being one of the most independent women in wrestling. There's never been any question that I could take care of myself in *any* situation before this garbage with Kevin Sullivan started. Now, all of a sudden, it seems like everybody is worried about Precious. Well, they shouldn't be.

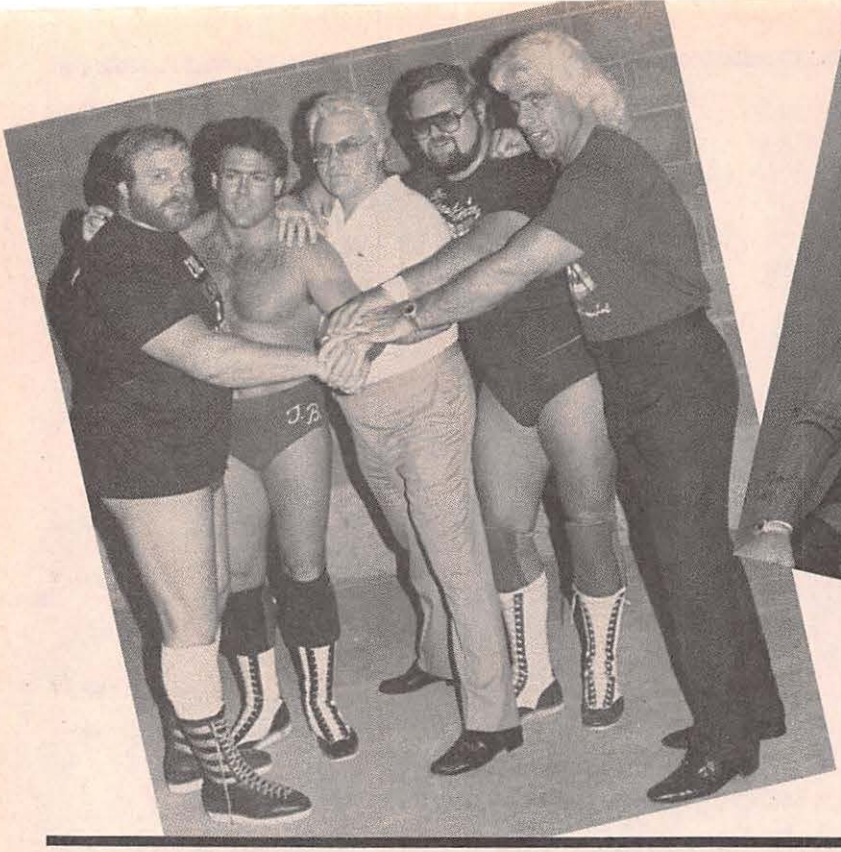
BOB SMITH: It was very hard *not* to worry about you, though, after what happened in Tallahassee a few months ago. When Jimmy and Ronnie ran after you, they found you sitting in that room, crying all alone. What . . .

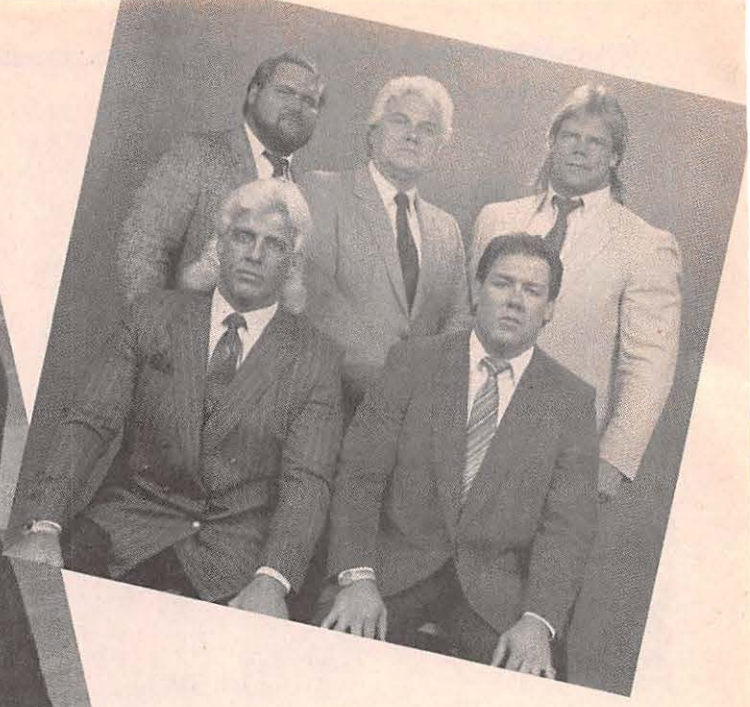
PRECIOUS: Hold it right there, pal. I know what your next question is going to be. You want to know what went down between me and Sullivan when he kidnapped me that night. You tried to ask Jimmy the same question when you interviewed him last month for *The Wrestler.* Well, there are some things that a girl doesn't feel should be told. Let's just put it this way: Sullivan was up to no good, just like he always is. He didn't hurt me, and he didn't touch me. Let's just say we had a discussion. That's all I'm gonna say about it.



DAVID ROSENBAUM: The way Sullivan talks about *you,* though, it seems like there may have been some kind of relationship between you and him in the past. He always

(Continued on page 64)





Ole Anderson (left: far left) was replaced as a member of The Four Horsemen in 1987 by Lex Luger (above: top row right) . . .

THE FOUR HORSEMEN'S REVOLVING DOOR— WHO'S THE NEXT TO GO?

First, Ole Anderson was fired and replaced by Lex Luger. Then, Luger was suddenly out of the fold, replaced by Barry Windham. Once a stable organization, The Four Horsemen have been rocked by internal dissension and squabbling. Is James J. Dillon preparing to make yet another roster move?

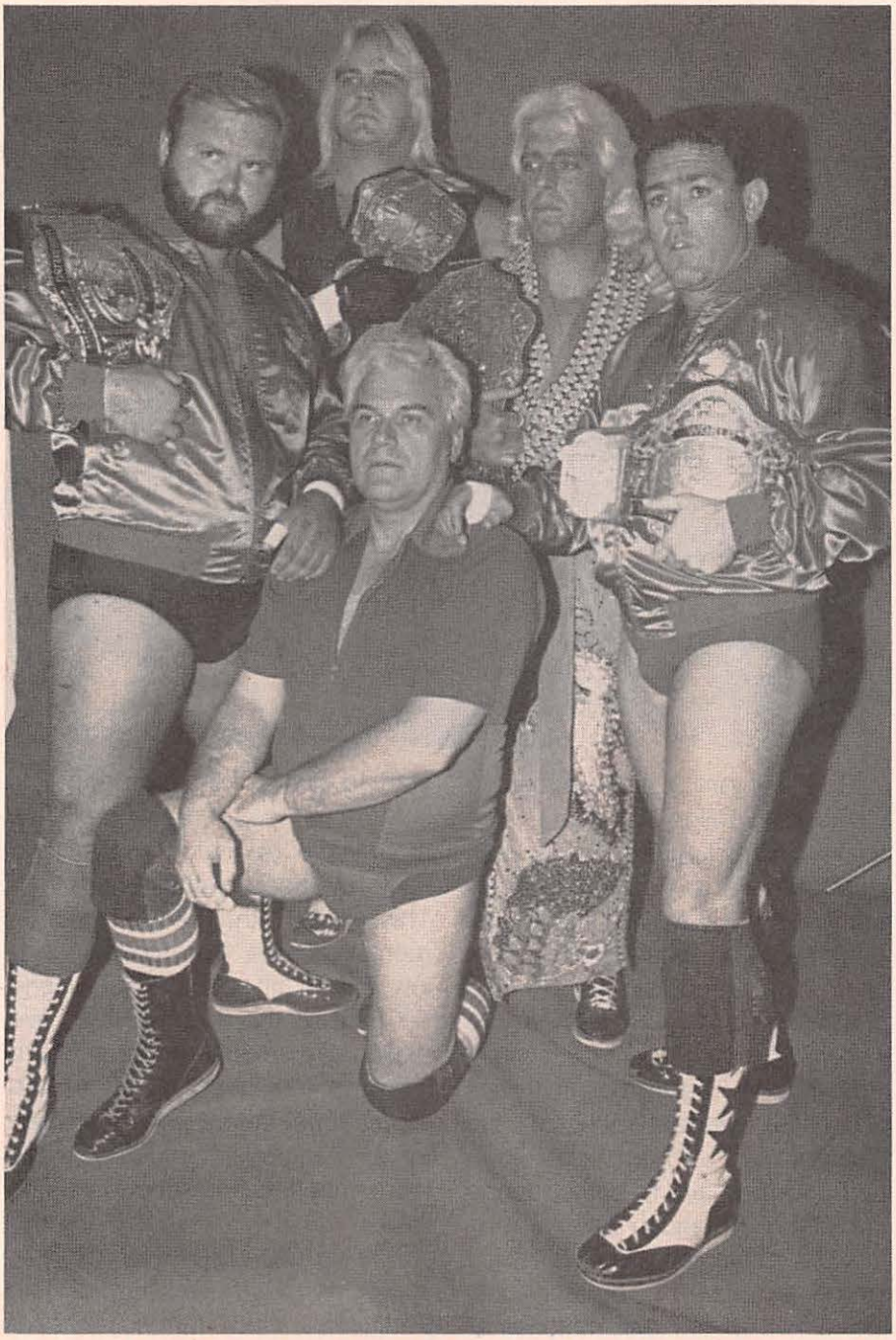
IF YOU LISTEN to James J. Dillon and The Four Horsemen, you might believe that the Horsemen are as solid as a rock.

Think again.

In 1986, Ric Flair had a tenuous hold on his NWA World championship. Ole Anderson had led Arn Anderson into the sport, and together they formed a classic tag team. Tully Blanchard was a perennial contender for the U.S. title. The cunning Dillon fell into a gold mine that year when he gained managerial control of all these men. The Four Horsemen were born. The NWA would never be the same.

Today, the organization thrives. All four members hold titles: Flair is still NWA World champion, Anderson and Blanchard are World tag team champions, and the newest Horseman, Barry Windham, is the U.S. titleholder. But you'd need a scorecard to keep up with all the membership changes the Horsemen have made during the past two years.

Rumors abound that the Horsemen *still* face a host of internal problems. Reportedly, Flair is unhappy that the other Horsemen have not rallied to his rescue during recent title defenses; Anderson is tired of living in the shadows of his partners; Blanchard is unhappy about dealing with Flair's ego; Windham simply wants to concentrate on his U.S. title without these other distractions; both Blanchard and Anderson were upset that Windham was chosen to be a Horseman without their consent. These are all just rumors, but a day doesn't go by without some potentially damaging Horsemen gossip hitting the streets.



. . . but now Barry Windham (second from left) has replaced Luger in this ever-changing organization. Is another change imminent in J.J. Dillon's championship stable?

Dillon, always looking to protect his interests, is not happy with the controversy surrounding his men. He insists things have never been better.

"Members change, but our intentions never do," said Dillon recently. "There is no man or team in the NWA that can defeat any of our individual members. And with our vast financial resources, we are becoming wealthy beyond our wildest dreams. We always win—no matter *what* the means."

This callous outlook has been profitable for Dillon, Flair, Blanchard, and Anderson, but even Dillon can't deny all the trouble in the fourth slot. In early 1987, friction began between Ole Anderson and the other Horsemen due to Ole's absence from several key bouts because of a family commitment. In this world of high finances and titles, family and friendship mean little and Ole soon found he was an ex-Horseman.

Ole was replaced by Luger, but even the tenure of this premier athlete lasted less than a year. Luger blamed Dillon's interference for his loss of the U.S. title at Starrcade '87 last November to Dusty Rhodes, and it wasn't long before Luger and the Horsemen became bitter enemies. Windham joined the Horsemen on April 20, but the man he turned against in order to do so—ex-Horseman Luger—claims more changes are just a matter of time.

"There's no way those fools and their egos can exist with each other for long," said Luger, who now is part of the faction fighting the Horsemen. "They talk about what a close-knit team they are, but I'm sure that jealously has creeped up on Windham, Flair, and Blanchard already. Plus, Dillon is bound to make a mistake that costs somebody a title. When that happens, watch out! It's all too much for those chumps to handle."

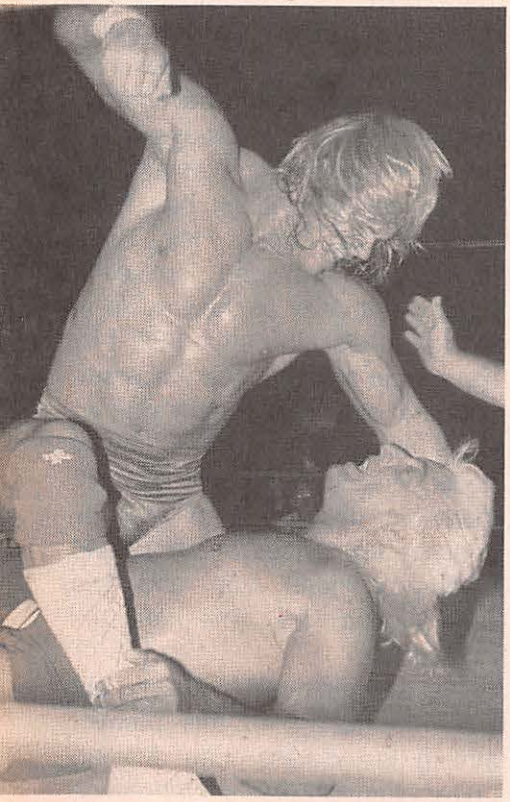
The one Horseman Luger didn't mention was Anderson, but it appears "The Enforcer" has created some difficulties for the team. In July, U.S. tag team champions Stan Lane and Bobby Eaton—The Midnight Express—began lobbying NWA officials for a World title match against Anderson and Blanchard. The shocked Dillon doesn't want anything to do with the Express, but Anderson has been a close friend of Eaton's for many years.

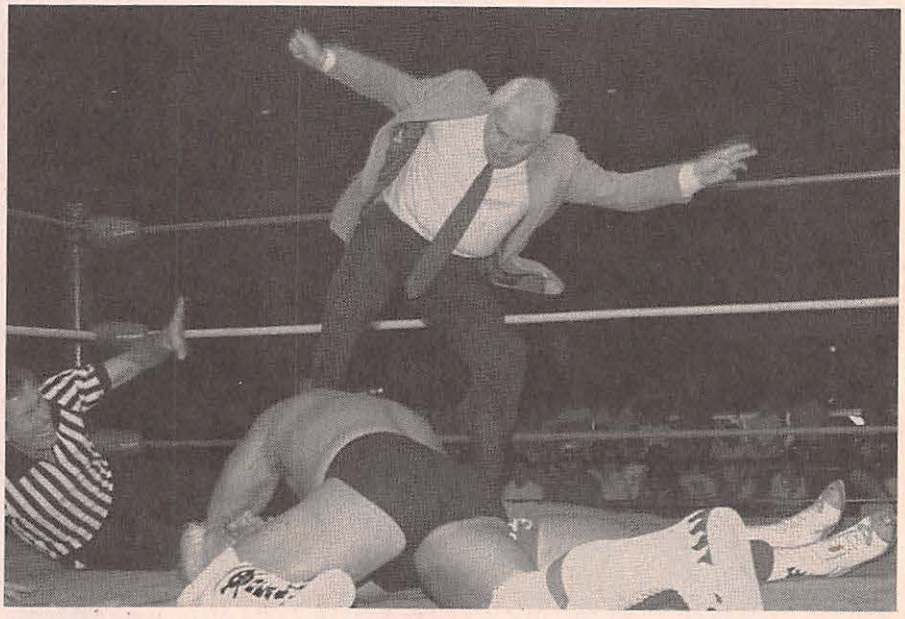
"It's true, me and Bobby are best buddies," said Anderson recently. "Personally, it wouldn't bother me to have a match against Stan and Bobby. I'm sure we would win, so what difference would it make?"

When informed of Anderson's comments, Dillon was not pleased, mainly because he had instructed the Horsemen not to comment about The Midnight Express.

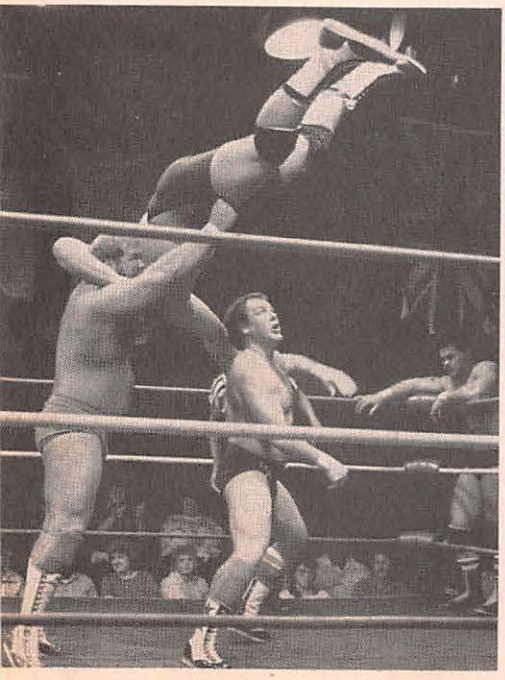
"I can't take losing to Rhodes!" spit Flair, hurling a boot across the locker room following a loss in Charlotte, North Carolina. "J.J. insists on wrestling in these matches, but it's clear he should have stayed retired. We were doing fine tonight until he submitted to Luger's backbreaker, damn it! He's the reason we've been losing. He's got no business in the ring anymore."

"Where the hell were those guys when Luger had me up in that backbreaker?" screamed Dillon. "I'll tell you, I'm not a happy man tonight. I'm not happy with *anything*. If some people around here like their jobs, they'd better starting doing them *properly*."





Luger peppers Flair's head with a series of powerful punches (above), but the Horsemen aren't usually at such a disadvantage. Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson ready Troy Williams for Arn's gourdbuster (below), and J.J. Dillon interferes as Steve Williams has Flair in a pinning combination (right).



"I don't care *what* Arn has to say," said Dillon. "I don't care about his relationship with Eaton, either. There is no way that we will wrestle The Midnight Express. Anderson had best learn not to give the wrong signals to the press where the Horsemen are involved."

Added to the rumor mill has been the performance of the Horsemen in a number of four- and five-man team bouts during the Great American Bash. They may be champions, but as a unit they have proven to be inept, losing almost all of these matches to various combinations led by Dusty Rhodes.

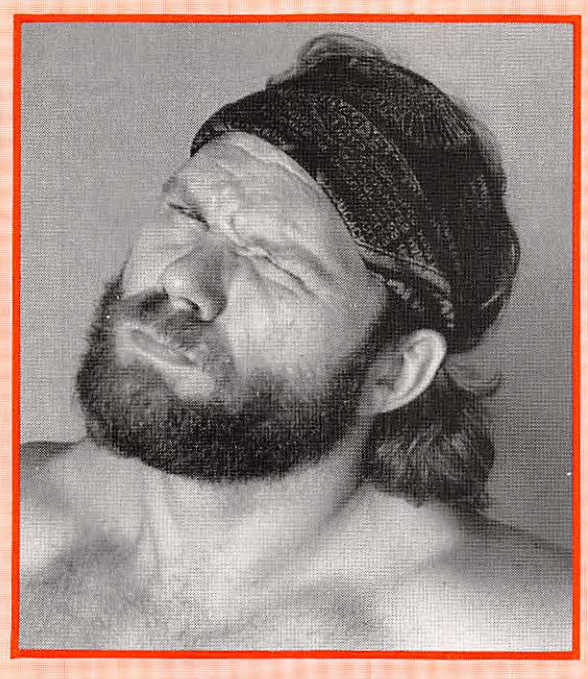
More gripes, more complaints, more strife. A match is lost, and each member blames the other. This is life with The Four Horsemen, five men who stoop to any low to win titles, but usually end up battling themselves. With five explosive personalities all trying to gain the limelight, it's only a matter of time before problems can ignite a raging inferno that leads to members being lopped off the roster.

NWA fans have longed for someone to rid wrestling of The Four Horsemen. If the fans are patient, the Horsemen may simply self-destruct. □

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED
T.V. SPORTS

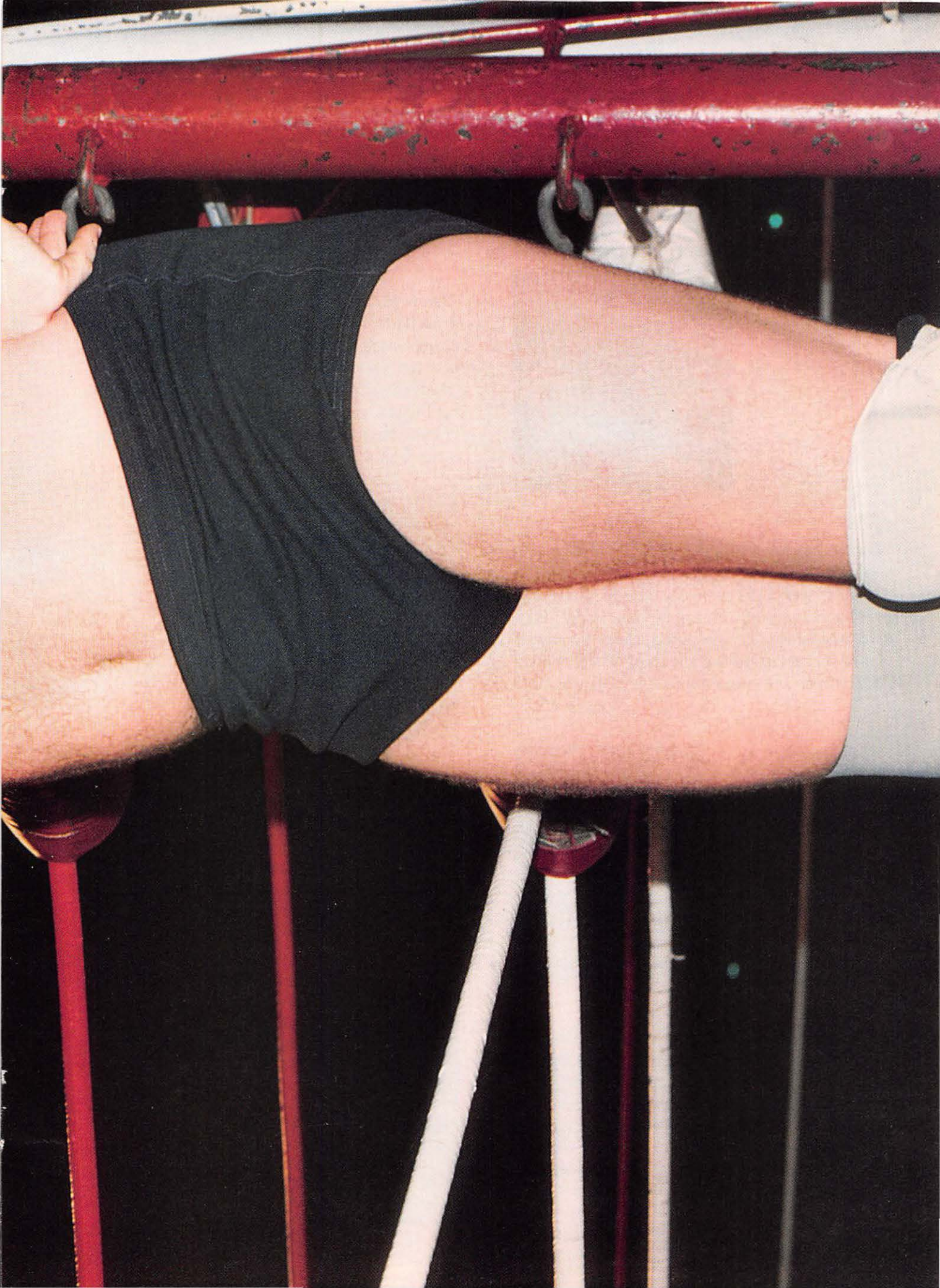
CLOSE-UP

HACKSAW DUGGAN



THIS EXCITING COMPETITOR is one of the most popular stars in the WWF . . . Thrills fans by approaching the ring with his 2x4 and hearty war chant of "Hooooooo!" . . . Stands 6'3" and weighs 275 pounds . . . Finishing move is a jarring football tackle . . . Grew up in Glens Falls, New York . . . Was well known as the son of the local police chief during his formative years . . . Grew up playing football in grade school and high school . . . As his high school career drew to a close, Duggan began visiting colleges to choose among scholarship offers . . . Met veteran wrestler Fritz Von Erich during a trip to Southern Methodist University . . . Von Erich spoke with Duggan about becoming a pro wrestler, but Duggan was not interested at that point . . . Went on to attend SMU and engage in a successful college football career . . . After college, Duggan played in the National Football League with the Atlanta Falcons during the 1977 and 1978 seasons . . . Stayed in shape during that time by embarking on a strict training program administered by Von Erich . . . Learned the rudiments of pro wrestling during that period . . . Made his professional debut in September 1977 in Dallas against Bill White . . . Wrestled for only a few weeks before returning to Atlanta to prepare for the Falcons' '78 season . . . Was released by the Falcons after that season . . . Signed by the CFL Toronto Argonauts in 1979 . . . After that season, returned home to Glens Falls . . . Local promoter Ted Bailey of Albany heard that Duggan had wrestled in Texas and booked him on upstate New York WWF cards . . . Duggan met veteran Peter Maivia at one of these cards . . . Maivia admired Duggan's talents, and aided him in procuring matches in Hawaii . . . Competed in Hawaii for six months . . . Returned to the New York area and competed in the WWF for a short time . . . Atlanta promoters took notice of Duggan's size and ability and quickly signed him . . . Duggan credits Atlanta as being the place where he "really learned how to wrestle" . . . After wrestling in Atlanta for about a year, made his first overseas tour, traveling to Japan for five weeks . . . Early 1982 saw Duggan wrestling in both the Southwest and Atlanta areas . . . Made his first appearance in the Mid-South area in mid-1982 . . . Quickly befriended by Ted DiBiase and Matt Borne . . . This trio became known as "The Rat Pack," and Duggan called himself "The Big Cheese," proclaiming himself the leader of the trio . . . Duggan feuded with fan favorites such as Junkyard Dog, Mr. Wrestling II, and Tony Atlas . . . Duggan and DiBiase became a feared tag team . . . DiBiase took on Gen. Skandor Akbar as his adviser in May 1983, causing a rift among the Rat Pack members . . . Duggan wanted nothing to do with the anti-American Akbar . . . Began a one-man war against Akbar's stable, including Black Ninja and Kamala . . . Duggan and DiBiase also began to feud . . . Duggan won a loser-leave-town cage match, forcing DiBiase to leave Mid-South for 90 days . . . As his wars with DiBiase and Akbar escalated, Duggan's popularity reached an all-time high . . . Ironically, when Akbar brought The Missing Link into the Mid-South area, Duggan enlisted Andre the Giant to help battle his foes . . . Also feuded with Butch Reed and Jim Neidhart . . . Struggled in vain to win the now-defunct North American championship for over a year . . . Received several title shots against NWA champion Ric Flair during the same time . . . Finally won the North American title on March 16, 1986, from Buzz Sawyer in Oklahoma City . . . Was forced to vacate the title after only two months as the Mid-South area restructured itself into the UWF . . . Lost to Terry Gordy on May 30, 1986, in the final round of a tournament to determine the first UWF champion . . . Set his sights on the UWF tag team title . . . Teamed with longtime friend Terry Taylor, who then was a strictly scientific grappler . . . The pair captured the UWF tag title on December 27, 1986, from Leroy Brown and Bill Irwin in Ft. Worth, Texas . . . Duggan shocked Taylor—and his UWF fans—by leaving the federation after dropping a loser-leave-town match to One Man Gang in mid-January 1987 . . . Immediately packed his bags and headed back to the WWF, where he instantly became a major star . . . Began a savage feud with Nikolai Volkoff and The Iron Sheik . . . At the height of these wars, an unexpected twist of fate took Duggan away from wrestling for several months . . . Was arrested on May 27, 1987, by New Jersey State Police after a police officer spotted him drinking beer while operating a rental car . . . The Iron Sheik was also in the vehicle at the time . . . Duggan was charged with possession of marijuana and drinking alcohol while driving . . . The WWF indefinitely suspended both wrestlers following the incident . . . Resurfaced on August 28, 1987, where he lost to Ted DiBiase during the WWF's Paul Boesch retirement spectacular at the Sam Houston Coliseum in Houston . . . Picked up where he left off in terms of fan support . . . Immediately racked up an impressive string of victories . . . Hurled One Man Gang over the top rope to win the first WWF Royal Rumble on January 24, 1988, at the Copps Coliseum in Hamilton, Ontario . . . Began a feud with Andre the Giant following an in-ring confrontation March 9 in Winston-Salem, North Carolina . . . Duggan knocked Andre out with his 2x4 following a match challenge by Duggan . . . Tensions escalated when Andre interfered during Duggan's match against Ted DiBiase during the first round of the WrestleMania IV championship tournament March 27 at Trump Plaza in Atlantic City, New Jersey . . . This feud continues to rage through WWF arenas . . . Duggan seems to have reached his peak in popularity, and remains one of the top contenders to both the Intercontinental and WWF World titles. □

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED
T.V. SPORTS
HACKSAW DUGGAN
"Hooooooooo!"

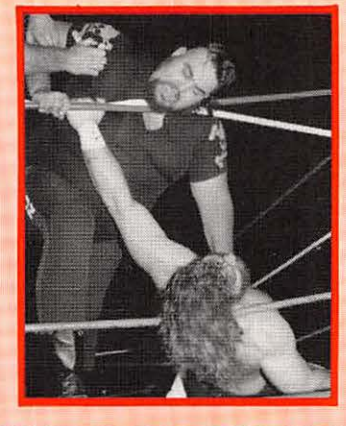


PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

CLOSE-UP

FAVORITE MANEUVER

Football tackle. In a style that recalls his days with the Atlanta Falcons, Duggan uses this maneuver to finish off his already weakened opponents. Positioning himself in the opposite corner of the ring, Duggan runs at top speed toward his foe, driving him to the canvas with unmatched power. His awesome upper-body strength makes this one of the most feared maneuvers in the WWF.

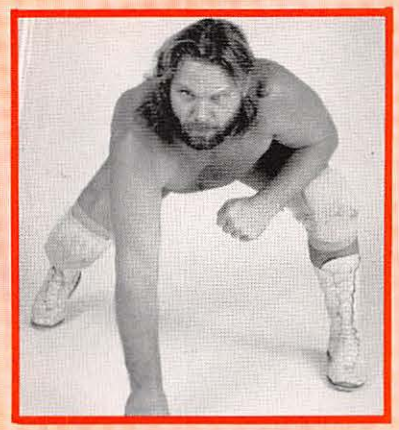


MOST HATED OPPONENT

Andre the Giant. Once close friends, Andre infuriates Duggan with his viciousness. Incensed, Duggan challenged Andre to a one-on-one match, which led to the knockout of Andre with his two-by-four. Since that time, Andre and Duggan have battled throughout the WWF. Although Andre has emerged as the victor in the majority of these bouts, Duggan has inspired fans all over the world with his battles against the 497-pound Frenchman.

GREATEST MATCH

March 16, 1986 vs. Buzz Sawyer. Duggan had struggled for over a year to gain the North American championship, but came up short each time until he defeated Sawyer during this bloody battle in Oklahoma City. Sawyer had the advantage early on, but Duggan, showing the courage that would soon become his trademark, rallied back to earn the first major singles title of his career.

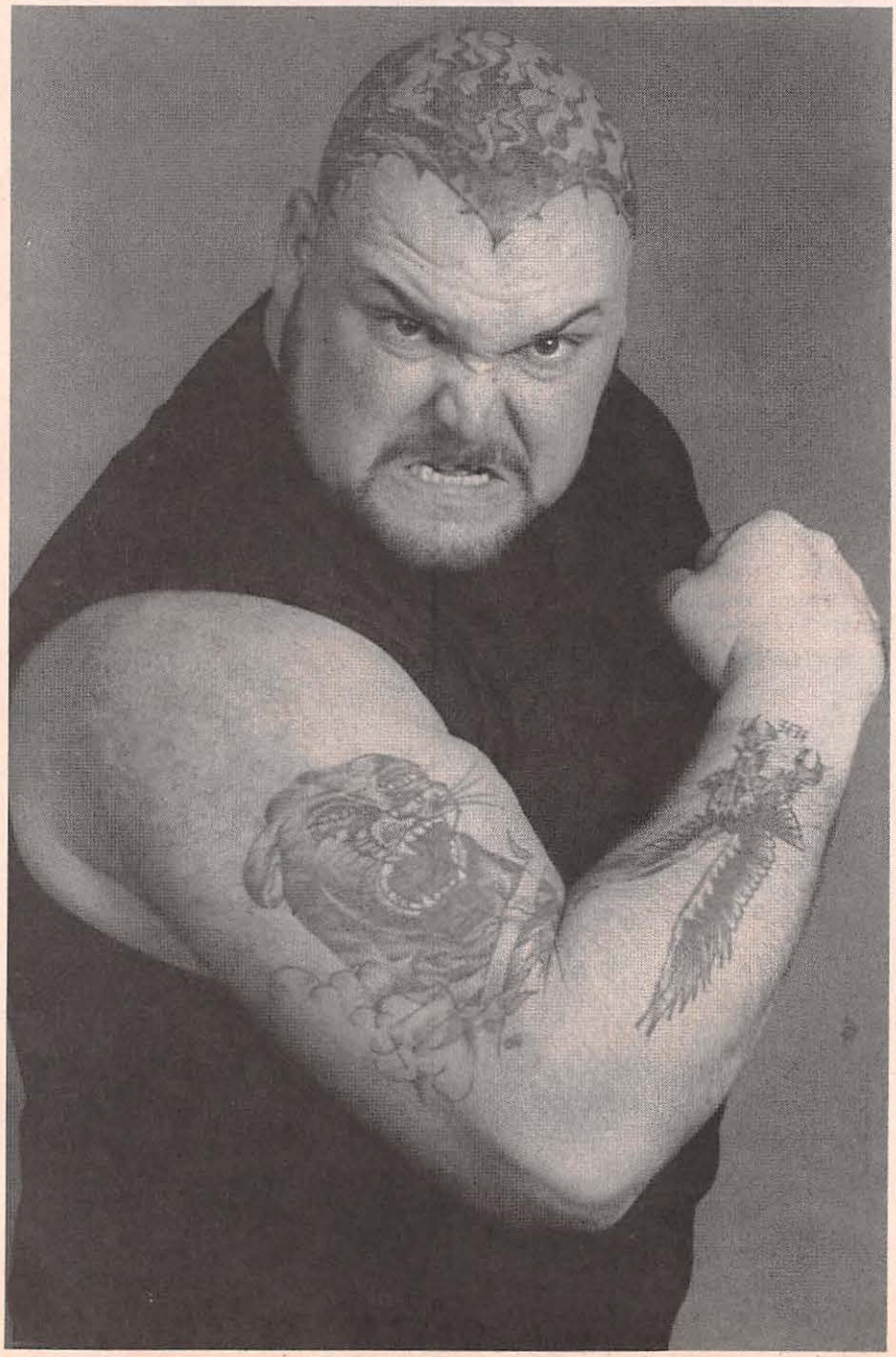


TOUGHEST OPPONENT

One Man Gang. OMG and Duggan seem to folow each other around. At first, these two massive competitors feuded in the Mid-South area, and continued in the UWF. It wasn't long before they continued their war in the WWF. The 468-pound Gang offers Duggan a formidable challenge, using his bulk to neutralize Hacksaw's brawling capabilities.

WHY Bam Bam Bigelow LEFT THE WWF

Frustrated by his inability to land main event matches, Bam Bam Bigelow left the World Wrestling Federation. He may be gone, but this massive, talented grappler will try to make sure he isn't forgotten!



WWF FANS WILL never forget November 26, 1987. It was the day a newcomer established himself as a genuine superstar.

That was the day of the first-ever Survivor Series, a unique card featuring five-on-five single-elimination tag team matches. In the main event, Bam Bam Bigelow, Hulk Hogan, Ken Patera, Paul Orndorff, and Don Muraco took on Andre the Giant, Butch Reed, One Man Gang, King Kong Bundy, and Rick Rude.

Fans salivated at the chance to see Hogan and Andre lock up for the first time since WrestleMania III, but it was Bam Bam Bigelow who stole the show. Reed and Rude were eliminated early, followed by Patera, Orndorff, Muraco, and Hogan. This left Bigelow alone to face the 446-pound Bundy, the 468-pound Gang, and the 497-pound Andre.

Bigelow nearly defeated them all singlehandedly! The 368-pound firebrand displayed the incredible strength, speed, and agility that has made him the hottest young property in the sport. He expertly disposed of Bundy and Gang, but tired against Andre and was eventually pinned.

The fact that he lost didn't matter; Bigelow had proven his worth against three of the biggest athletes ever to compete in the sport. He seemed destined for either the Intercontinental or World title. But then, as so often happens in the WWF, Bigelow got caught on a career treadmill. Before long, he found himself wrestling the same opponents in match after match.

"It seemed like I was running in a race, but soon I realized I was the only one in it," Bigelow told *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* in an exclusive interview. "Basically, what happened

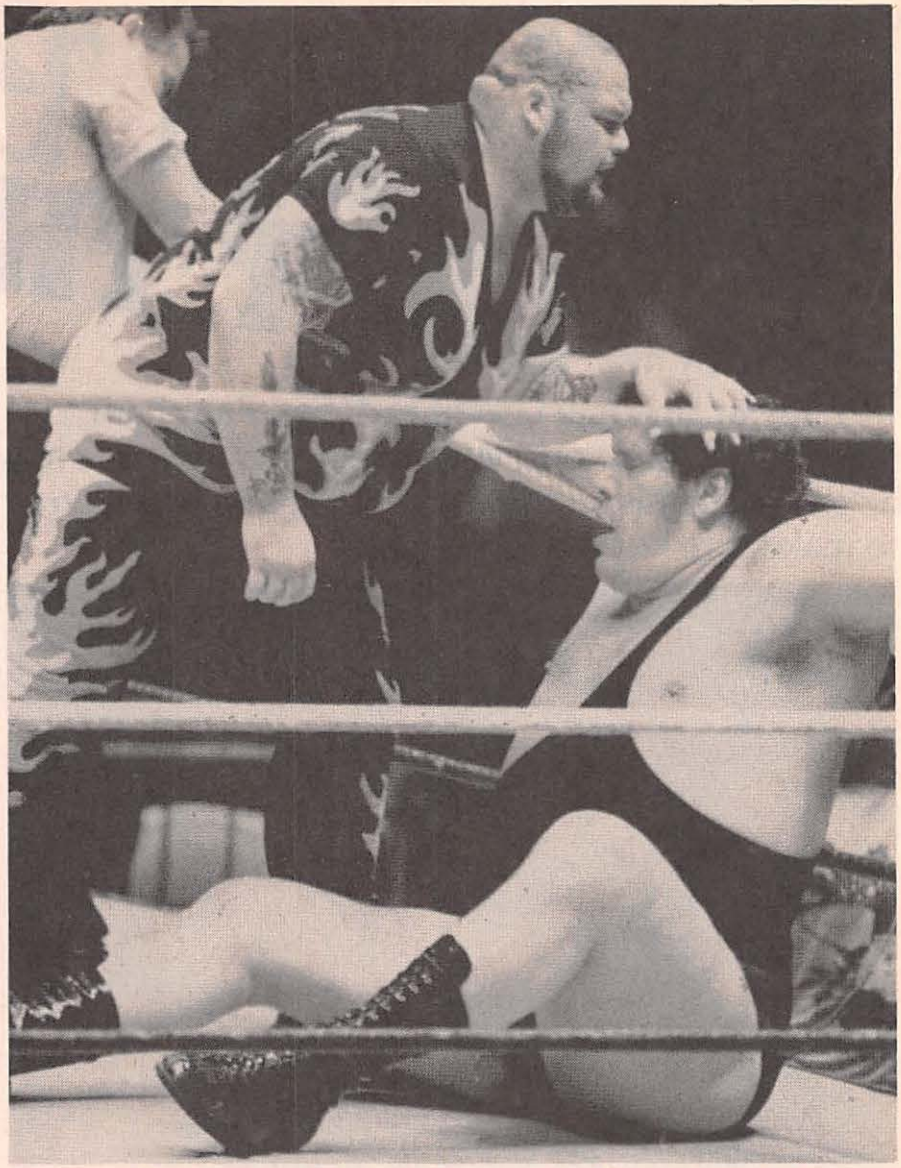
in the WWF was that there was no momentum going for me anymore. It seemed like I had wrestled One Man Gang hundreds of times, and there were no title shots or main events coming. The competition was lacking, and I thought the situation was ridiculous."

So did many of the fans. An article in the September 1988 issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* ("Has Oliver Humperdink Failed As Bam Bam Bigelow's Manager?") brought up similar points, but looked to Humperdink as the culprit behind Bigelow's lack of quality opponents. As it turns out, Bigelow blames the federation, not his mentor, for his woes.

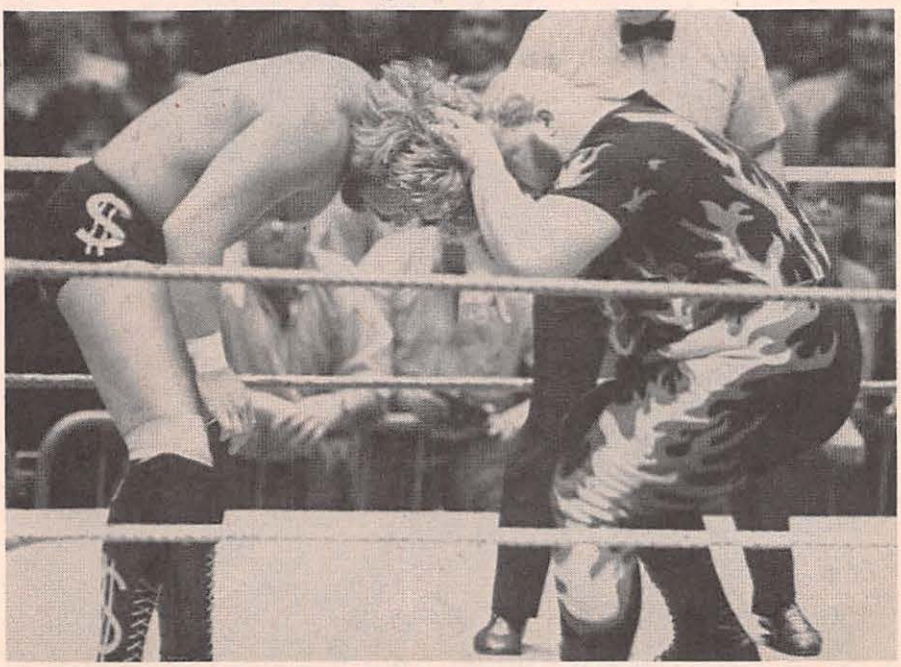
"Humper did fine," said Bigelow. "I haven't broken my ties with Oliver, but he's still with the WWF and I've decided to leave. Humper did the best he could; it was the federation that turned a deaf ear to my cause. At first, there was this big battle for my services, and everybody wanted to know who my manager would be. I said no to all the rule-breaking managers and chose Oliver to guide my career. But after that, it seems like the promotion forgot about me. I wasn't getting a big enough return on my investment."

Bigelow wrestled regularly, but rarely against top-level competitors. Usually he would be matched against One Man Gang or Hercules Hernandez, and he usually came out on top. But his victories never resulted in main events, which hurt Bigelow financially and professionally.

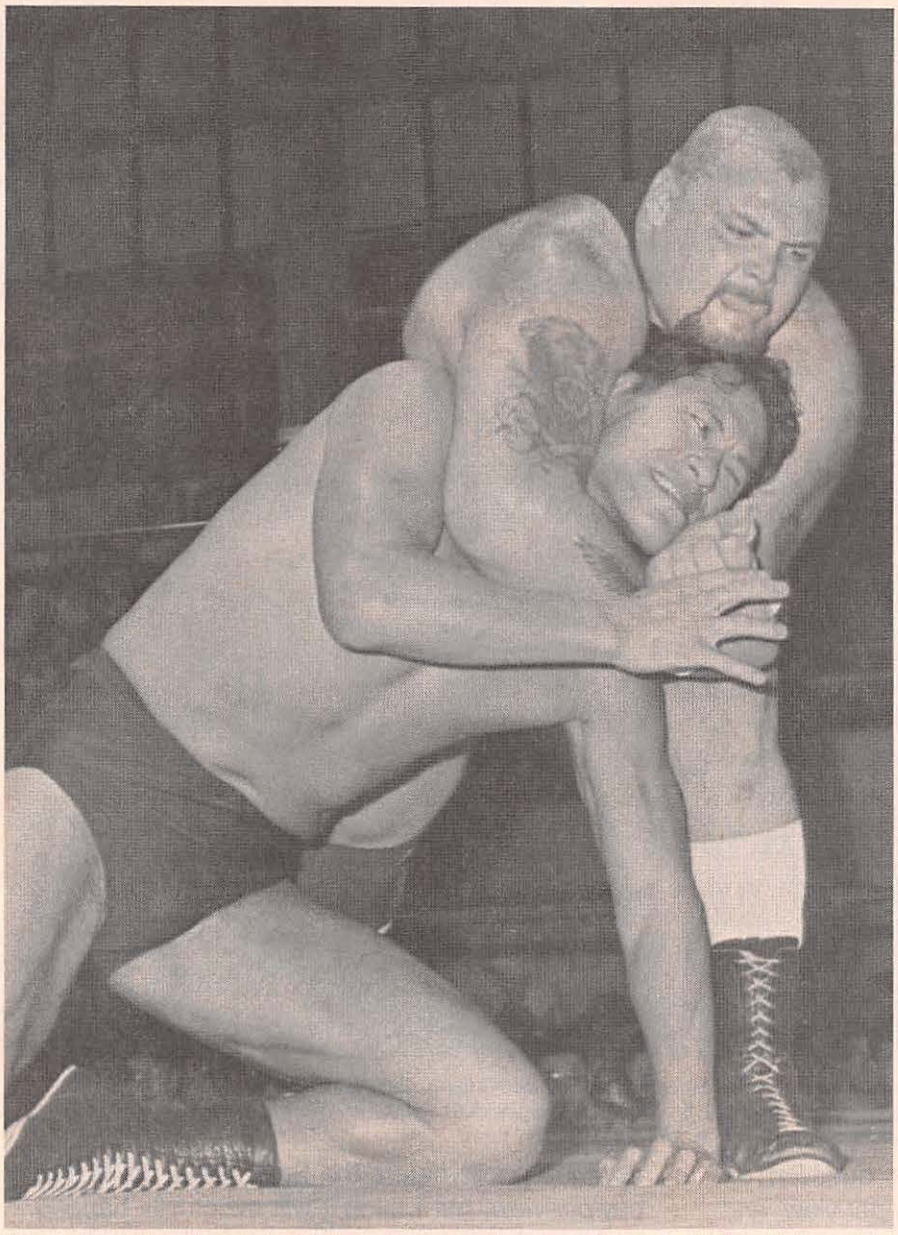
"They were misguiding my career," he insists. "Naturally, I wanted to face Ted DiBiase and Andre, but those kind of matches were few and far between. You know, the WWF is like a four-man show. There's a lot of attention focused toward Hulk vs. Andre and Savage vs. DiBiase, but that didn't leave too much room for Bam Bam Bigelow. Hey, I was getting stale! I didn't want to wear out my welcome with the fans. I wouldn't be able to stand it if they



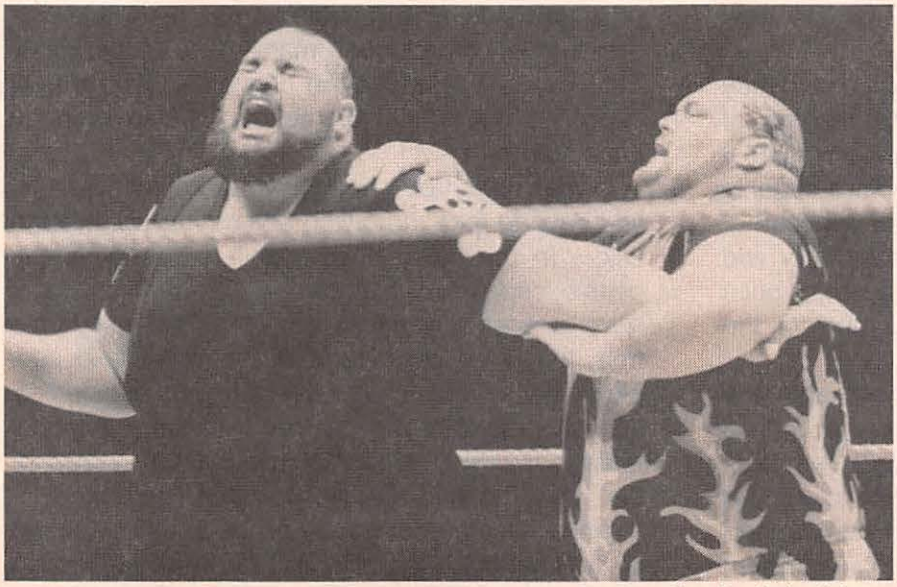
Two monsters battle: Bam Bam Bigelow has Andre the Giant tied up in the ropes. Bigelow was an impressive force in the WWF, but never got a shot at the World title.



Bigelow headbutts Ted DiBiase. According to Bam Bam, matches against top competition like Andre and DiBiase "were few and far between."



Bigelow immobilizes Antonio Inoki with a headlock. Now that he's left the WWF, Bigelow might decide to return to the Japan, where he has received matches against all top competition.



One Man Gang twists Bigelow's arm. "It seemed like I wrestled One Man Gang hundreds of times, and there were no title shots coming," Bigelow said.

became tired of me."

Much like the recently retired Rick Steamboat, Bigelow also has a new priority in his life: His first son, Shane, was born June 9. But instead of leaving wrestling, Bigelow has shifted gears as far as his career is concerned.

"My career isn't going to end simply because I left the WWF," Bigelow said. "I'm going to try to work in the Memphis, Continental, and Windy City areas, and I've set up a tour of Japan. I'd like to do what Bruiser Brody used to do, and become a 'freelance' wrestling star. I'm hungry again, and I'm looking forward to some new challenges and titles."

Although unhappy with the matchmaking policies in the WWF, Bigelow looks back on his tenure there with fondness.

"The fans were just great to me," he said. "They're the most super people in the world. I'm sure I'll be seeing them all again before long, because someday I intend to come back and become the WWF World champion.

"I think I'm a better wrestler now than I was when I first went to the WWF," Bigelow continued. "I gained a lot of experience and maturity there, but I'm looking to the future, and I'm looking out for what's best for my family. I have to do what's best for *me*. I'm a lot smarter now, too."

Smart enough to realize his career was being wasted in the WWF. Bigelow has as much potential as any wrestler in the world, and now he'll be using the full range of opportunities the sport has to offer in order to realize that potential. Sadly, the WWF did not see the greatness in Bigelow that the rest of the wrestling world has noted for the past two years. But as far as Bigelow is concerned, the WWF's loss is his gain.

"As far as I'm concerned, the WWF wasn't ready for me," said Bigelow. "Now, I'm ready to take on the *world!*" □

MEDIA REVIEW

WrestleMania III brought a record-setting crowd to the Silverdome in Pontiac Michigan. But the pay-per-view TV records set by WrestleMania III were recently shattered by the Mike Tyson-Michael Spinks heavyweight boxing match. Is there any limit to how successful pay-per-view TV can be?

WHAT'S THE LIMIT? That's the question on the minds of everybody in the pay-per-view and closed-circuit TV industry following the June 27 Mike Tyson-Michael Spinks heavyweight championship bout, which shattered all pay-per-view records.

The PPV gross income of $21-million and buy rate of 12 percent far eclipsed the records of $13.2-million and 10.2 percent set by WrestleMania III in 1987. Only 5 million homes were capable of receiving the Tyson-Spinks fight, as opposed to approximately 10.1 million for WrestleMania IV and 6.5 million for WrestleMania III; the average price of $34.95 to receive the event accounted for the record gross.

"By the year 2000, every cable home in the country will be addressable for pay-per-view," said Lou Falcigno, president of Momentum Enterprises, which handled the closed-circuit technology for Tyson-Spinks. "That's over 40 million homes, and when you're talking about a prime sporting event like the Super Bowl, the numbers are astronomical. Of course, there would be a lot of pressure from the public before the Super Bowl could be on pay-per-view, but I think it will eventually happen."

Currently, however, the number of homes capable of receiving PPV programing is limited. Approximately 11 million cable homes have addressable converters, although many more homes have PPV capability but not the converter. This is best explained by Bill Quinn, head of Cablevision on Long Island.

"When you talk about pay-per-view buy rates, you have to take them with some analysis," Quinn said. "In the case of our cable subscribers, the people capable of purchasing pay-per-view must have a special wireless converter box [separate from the wired cable remote control]. These people have already made a conscious decision to subscribe to our pay-per-view service." Approximately 75,000 of Cablevision's 300,000 subscribers have the addressable converter box.

"In other areas, because of the technical nature of the system, everybody in the area receives an addressable converter, so buy rates will be lower [although the number of buyers will be higher],"

Every other month, "Media Review" will take a hard look at the way in which professional wrestling is presented on television and in the mainstream media. This in-depth behind-the-scenes look at the business side of wrestling will help you appreciate the sport from an entirely new perspective

Quinn added. "And in California, there's impulse pay-per-view capability [subscribers can simply push a few buttons on a remote control to receive a PPV program instead of calling a cable operator], so the buy rates will be even higher."

When—or if—every cable home in the country is capable of the impulse buying of PPV programs, the industry will take off. "Eventually, they'll all be addressable," Falcigno said, "but it's still very expensive. You're talking about $200 a converter box in many cases. But eventually everyone will have a box."

IT'S NOT JUST FOR THE WWF ANYMORE. The growth of PPV is clearly evident in professional wrestling. In 1987, there were only three wrestling pay-per-view events. There will be as many as seven in 1988, including the NWA's Bunkhouse Stampede, The Great American Bash, and a scheduled December card; the WWF's WrestleMania IV, SummerSlam, and The Survivor Series; and the AWA's tentatively scheduled WrestleRock III on November 6.

WrestleMania III was the landmark event in PPV, but the NWA's July 10 Great American Bash made it clear that PPV is not the exclusive wrestling property of the WWF. For the Bash, Jim Crockett Promotions put distribution and production in the hands of Turner Sports Entertainment.

"A lot of pay-per-view events aren't successful," said Steve Chamberlain, vice president and general manager of Turner Sports Entertainment, "but this one was way up there. This was the first time that all three major pay-per-view distributors [Viewer's Choice, Request TV, and Home Premiere] got together and distributed one event, so we covered 98 percent of the pay-per-view universe, which was just over 10 million homes. About 400,000 homes signed up for the event, so our buy rate was around 4 percent."

Chamberlain reported a buy rate of 5 percent for Prime Cable in Atlanta, 8.5 percent in Virginia Beach, and 2.5 percent in New York City. "We'll target New York more next time," Chamberlain said. "Now we know our pockets of strengths and weaknesses. We will know how to go about it next time. Generally, we did higher in the South. I would've been happy with a 2 [percent buy rate] overall, so we're very excited about this."

Chamberlain credits the power of Turner Broadcasting with the success of the Bash. "We have a big organization," he said. "We have a 40-person in-house marketing team, dozens of top line producers, and leverage in the cable industry with TBS, CNN, and TNT. We're a huge part of the cable operators' business. They rely on us for new areas of entertainment. When Turner got involved, the operators said, 'Let's go.' They knew it would be professionally produced."

WWF TV CHECK. According to the most recent available Nielsen ratings sweeps (a four-week period in May during which local TV market audiences are measured to determine advertising rates), the WWF won its one-hour time period on 71 of 274 stations nationwide in which a comparison could be made.

The WWF shows placed second 63 times, third 60 times, and lost its time period 80 times. Of course, in almost all of these cases, the WWF is seen on Fox Network or independent stations that are much smaller than the competing networks (ABC, CBS, NBC).

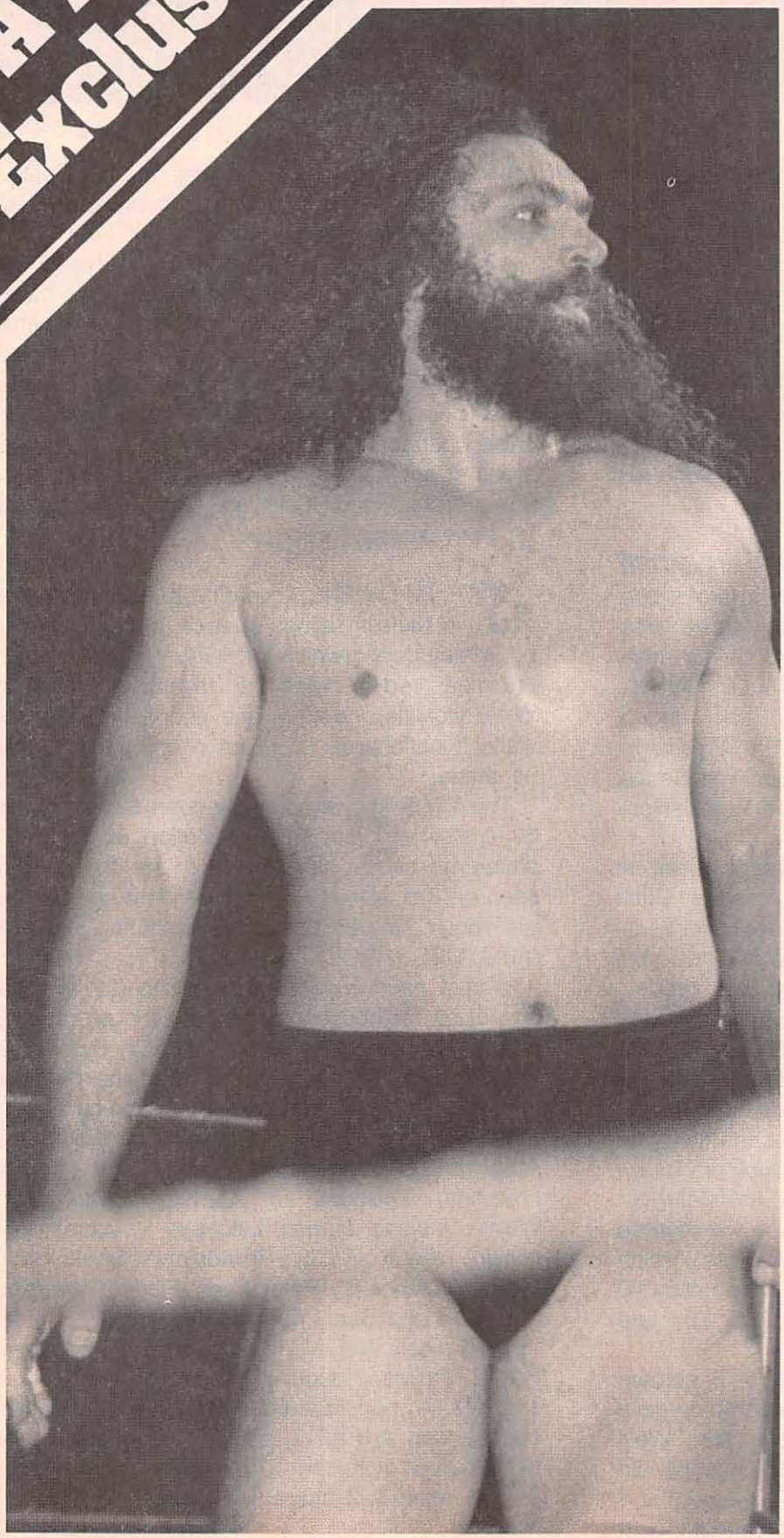
With a nationwide average rating (the percentage of all TV households viewing the program) of 3 and an average share (the percentage of all homes using TV which are viewing the program) of 14 for its weekend sign-on to sign-off airings, the WWF shows particular strength in: Albany and Augusta, Georgia; Baltimore; Baton Rouge, Lousiana; Cincinnati and Cleveland; Detroit; Ft. Wayne, Indiana; Hawaii; Lafayette, Lousiana; Wisconsin; New York City; Philadelphia; South Bend, Indiana; Tampa-St. Petersburg, Florida; Washington D.C.; and San Francisco-Oakland.

Surprisingly, the WWF does well in Greensboro, North Carolina, thought to be a strong NWA area. The WWF's noon Saturday airing on station WXII commanded a 3 rating and 18 share while going head-to-head with the NWA's *World Wide Wrestling* (4 rating, 22 share).

—Dave Rosenbaum□

A PWI Exclusive:

BRUISER



Frank Goodish, better known as Bruiser Brody, was one of the most popular and respected wrestlers in Japan, Puerto Rico, and the United States, during his spectacular 16-year pro career. Known as the "Mercenary of Mayhem," Brody was also known to be fiercely independent and, in the words of former rival Bruno Sammartino, "a stand-up guy. Brody was a man."

Brody never held a world title but was considered among the top wrestlers in the sport. In the Fall 1986 issue of ***Wrestling Superstars****, Brody was rated the best all-around wrestler in the world. And he was a legend in Japan, where he wrestled frequently and held several major singles titles.*

Brody started wrestling in 1974 in Texas under the name Frank "The Hammer" Goodish, then went on to the Florida area, where he won the Florida State title from Rocky Johnson. In 1976, he arrived in the WWF, where he changed his name to Bruiser Brody. The name fit. Brody engaged in a vicious rivalry with Sammartino, the WWF champion at the time, and carved out an image as a wild brawler.

After leaving the WWF, Brody wrestled such ring legends as Fritz Von Erich, Bruiser, and Andre the Giant. By the early 1980s, Brody had established himself as a major star in Japan. He and teammate Stan Hansen were considered the finest tag team in Japan and won several major titles. Brody was a three-time All-Japan International champ; he lost the belt for the last time on April 14, 1988, to Jumbo Tsuruta.

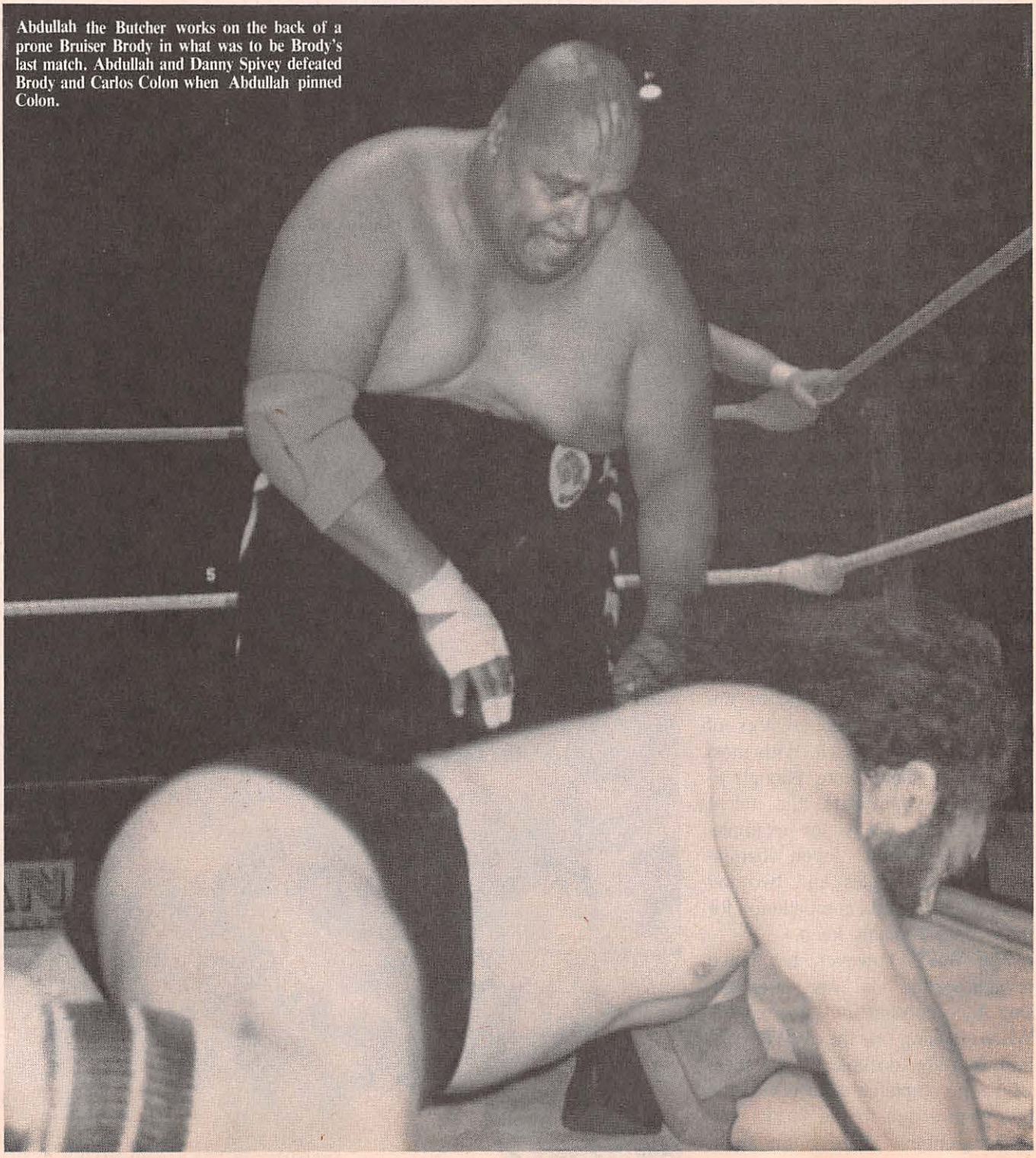
In recent years, Brody appeared on independent cards throughout the United States and also wrestled several times a year in Puerto Rico. His most famous feud over the past few years was against Abdullah the Butcher, a man even more vicious than Brody.

Bruiser Brody died at the age of 42

(Continued on page 58)

BRODY'S LAST MATCH

On July 15 in Puerto Rico, Bruiser Brody teamed with Carlos Colon to battle "Dangerous" Danny Spivey and Abdullah the Butcher. It was one of the most brutal bouts Puerto Rico has ever seen. It was also to be Brody's last



Abdullah the Butcher works on the back of a prone Bruiser Brody in what was to be Brody's last match. Abdullah and Danny Spivey defeated Brody and Carlos Colon when Abdullah pinned Colon.

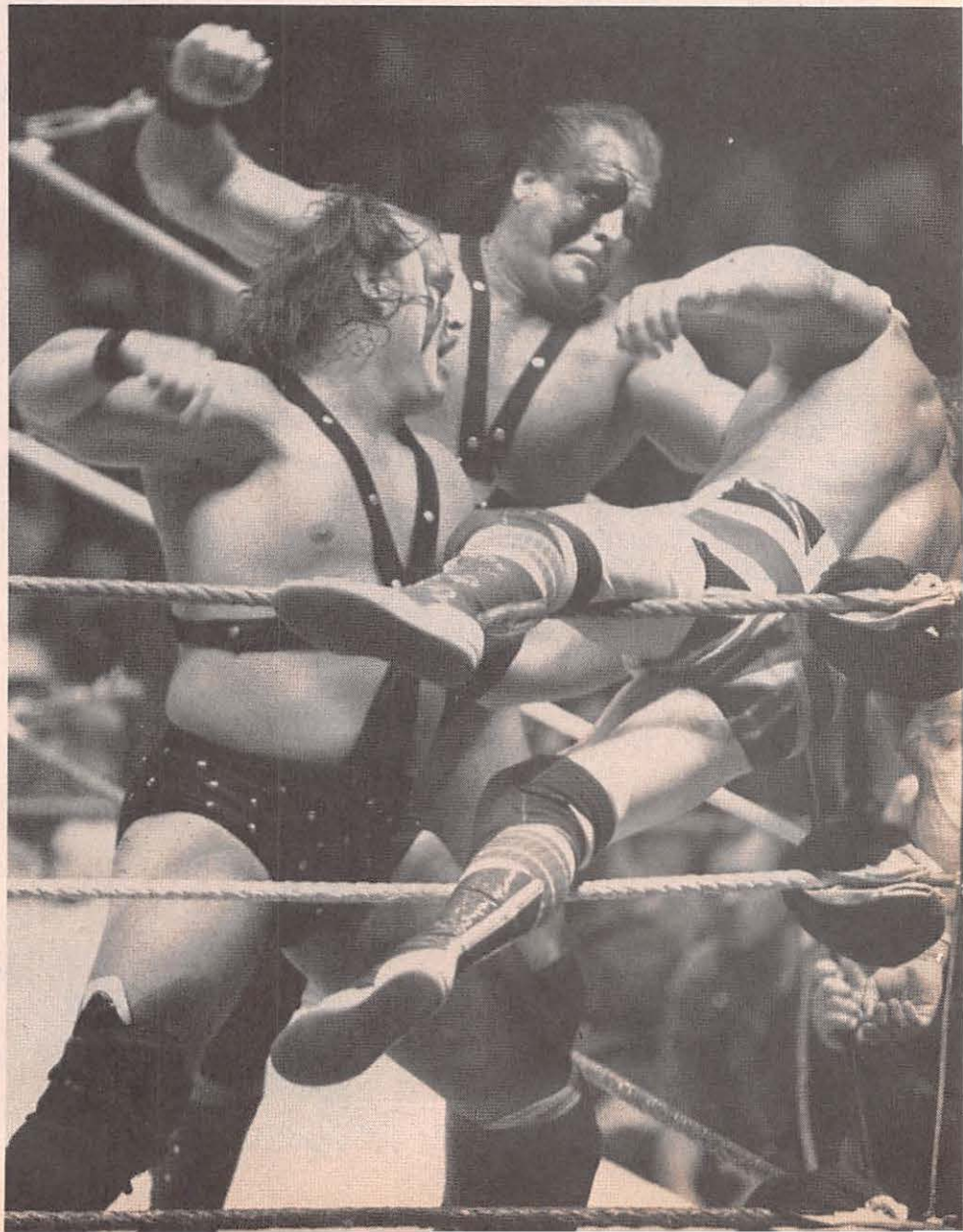
IT'S TIME FOR A WWF INTERCONTINENTAL TAG TITLE!

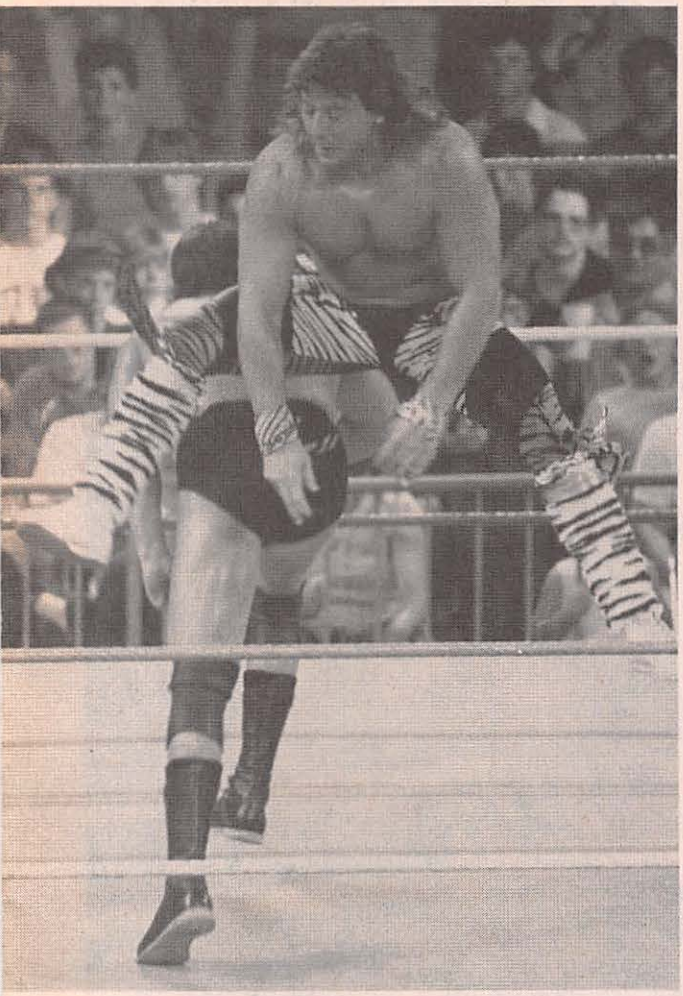
IN 1979, THE WWF unveiled a new title to join its other championships. The title was called the North American title and the first man to wear the belt was a young man named Ted DiBiase. Soon after, the North American title was replaced by the Intercontinental title, but regardless of the name of the championship, it served its purpose. The new belt helped fuel the aspirations of wrestlers who had neither the talent to capture the WWF heavyweight title nor a partner with whom to compete for the WWF tag team title.

Since 1979, however, wrestling in general—and the WWF in particular—has experienced a boom unforeseen even by the creators of the Intercontinental belt. With most federations, there were enough titles to accommodate the talent surge. In the NWA, for example, there are currently seven championships (five singles and two tag team titles), and competition for those belts remains keen.

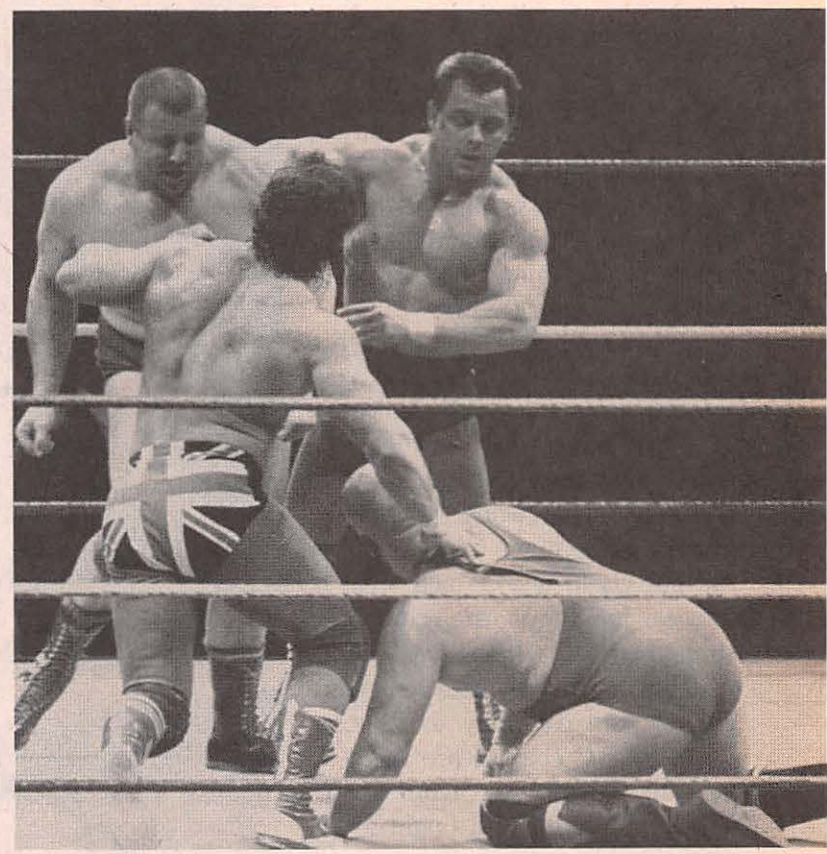
The WWF, however, has opted to weather the tidal wave of expansion by choosing *not* to expand. When looking at the WWF, you find literally dozens of wrestlers who are completely shut out of the title picture due to the virtual glut of competitors. There is an abun-

Demolition pounds away at a helpless Dynamite Kid. Demolition is currently the only tag team recognized as champions by the WWF.





Midnight Rocker Marty Jannetty leapfrogs over Terry Gibbs (left). The Bolsheviks and The British Bulldogs slug it out in the ring (below). The preponderance of talented tag teams in the WWF has made the creation of an Intercontinental tag team title necessary.



It is a federation overflowing with talent, yet the WWF has only three championships. Single competitors who fail in their World title drive can challenge for the Intercontinental belt; it's time for tag teams in the WWF to have that same opportunity

dance of talent vying for only three championships, and two of them are singles titles.

So what's a tag team to do?

Demolition is currently the WWF World championship tag team. The Powers of Pain, recent arrivals from the NWA, have quickly proven to be Demolition's top challengers. The feud involving these two teams has resulted in a series of matches that has effectively blocked other competitiors from getting title bouts. The British Bulldogs, Jacques and Raymond Rougeau, and The Hart Foundation *may* get an occasional shot at the belts, but they won't receive nearly the number of chances that the Powers are enjoying.

So what should teams like the Bulldogs, the Rougeaus, and the Foundation do while the champions and the top challenger play out their feud?

Frankly, if they're looking for a title in their future, there's not much they *can* do.

But if the WWF had an Intercontinental tag team title, high-quality teams like the Bulldogs, the Rougeaus, and the Hart Foundation—not to mention top competitors like The Midnight Rockers, The Killer Bees, The Young Stallions, and The Bolsheviks—would have a far greater chance than they do now of enjoying the championship spotlight.

Any of the above teams would make ideal Intercontinental tag team champions. The Rockers came to the WWF following a tenure as AWA World tag team champions, but are seemingly too small to compete with Demolition or The Powers of Pain. The British Bulldogs were the WWF World tag team champions for almost 10 months after WrestleMania II, but they have found little success against Demolition and have mired themselves in a feud with the Rougeaus. The Rougeaus and The

Bolsheviks are having trouble getting World title shots due to the WWF's reluctance to promote matches pitting rulebreakers against rulebreakers or fan favorites against fan favorites.

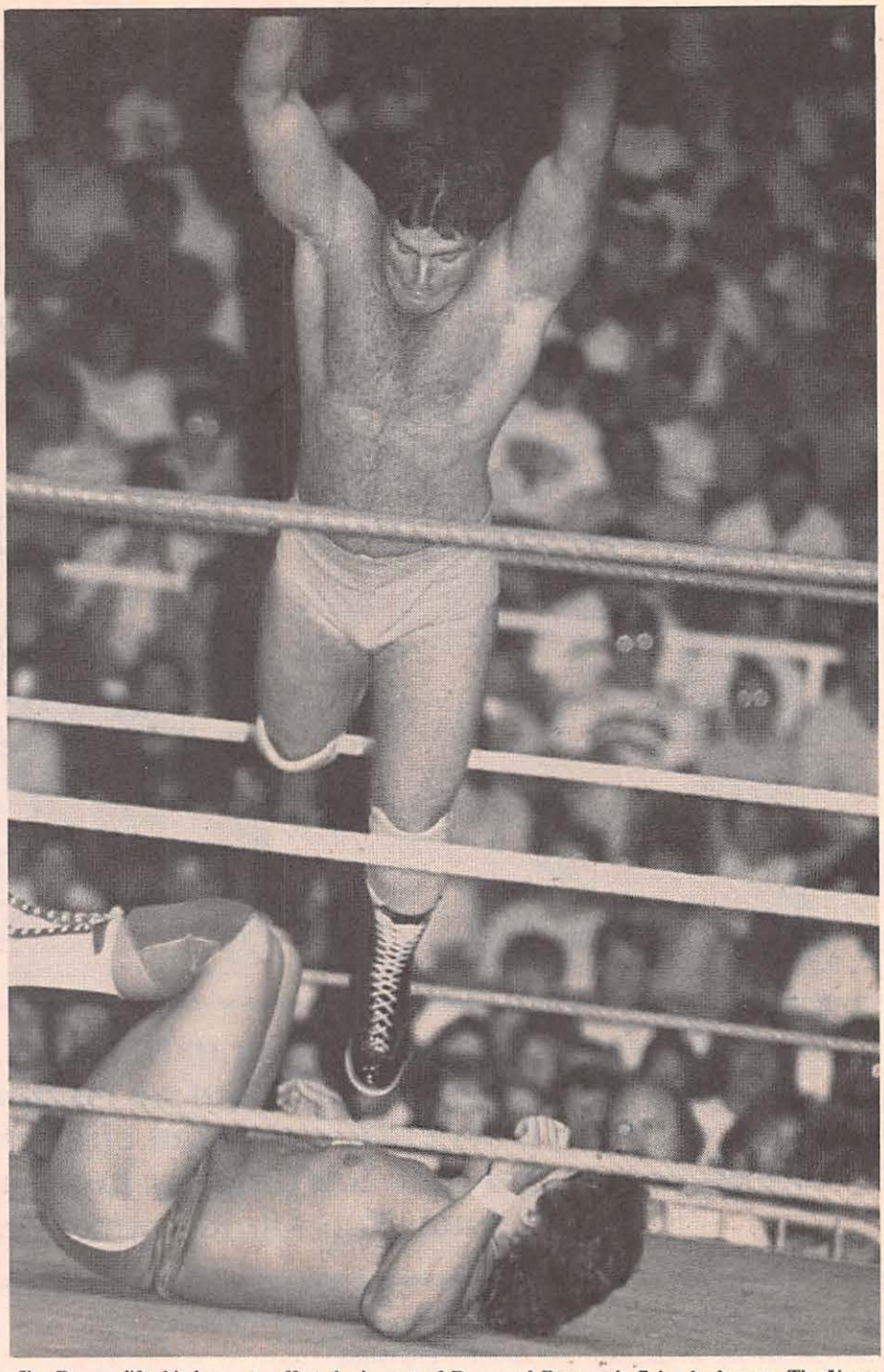
That's why an Intercontinental tag team title is necessary. Imagine the fan response generated by an Intercontinental tag team tournament! For the first time, all of the WWF's top teams would be competing at an unmatched level of energy and enthusiasm.

And the repercussions of such a tournament would shake the very foundations of the WWF. After new I-C tag champs are crowned, the tournament losers would all want title shots. That would provide an immediate level of excitement for the title itself, and a high level of interest for the fans. Then, after strengthening themselves with matches against all their top competitors, the day may even come when the I-C champs are ready to face the World tag team titlists. That's wrestling like it ought to be. *Championship* wrestling, from which the fans reap the most benefits.

While we understand that too many belts make a mockery of the word "champion" (how seriously can one take a Western States title defense in Atlanta?), more harm can come to the sport from having too *few* champions.

The NWA's U.S. tag team title, for example, adds the excitement of championship fervor to the rivalry between The Midnight Express and their top challengers, The Fantastics. It's a feud powered by the added passion that can only be found when a major title is at stake. Without the belts on the line, nightly matches between the two teams might soon become tedious.

Since the WWF does not acknowledge Intercontinental tag team champions, fans are often witness to aimless non-title feuds between worthy teams. One recent evening at New York's Madison Square Garden, for example, the only title defense on the card was Demolition's. But before fans could watch Ax and Smash take on The British Bulldogs, they sat through such bouts as The Powers of Pain against The Bolsheviks and the Rougeaus against The Midnight Rockers. The action in those matches was fair, but imagine the excitement level—and the increased effort of the competitors themselves—if the Rougeaus battled the Rockers with an I-C tag team title on the line!



Jim Powers lifts his knees to offset the impact of Raymond Rougeau's flying bodypress. The Young Stallions and The Rougeau Brothers would be top contenders for a new WWF tag team title.

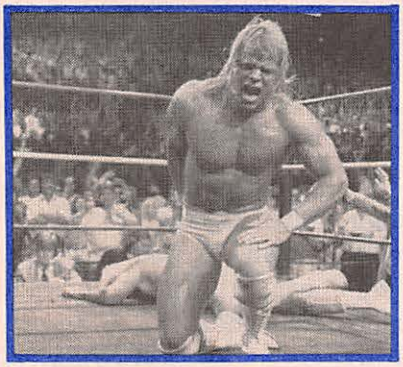
Ultimately, a WWF Intercontinental tag team title must be created to stir the stagnant backwater of the WWF tag team talent pool. Right now, if you're not getting shots against the World champs (and that accounts for almost every WWF team except Powers of Pain), there's nothing to do but wait for a turn that may never come.

Creating an I-C tag team title is the right thing to do and it's good for the fans. So what is the WWF waiting for? □

THIS MONTH IN...

The Wrestler

SCANDAL! Find out why **TED DiBIASE'S** "friends" may be plotting to stop his WWF title drive



SCANDAL! Go behind the scenes in the conspiracy that cost **LEX LUGER** the NWA World championship

PLUS . . .

THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS: "We proved we don't need **JIM CORNETTE** to win!" . . . Police Brutality! **BIG BOSSMAN** invades the WWF . . . The wild life and tragic death of **BRUISER BRODY** . . . Exclusive "Q & A" interview with **BUDDY ROBERTS** . . . Introducing **TOM BRANDI** . . . **BARRY WINDHAM** in the *Wrestler* "Spotlight"

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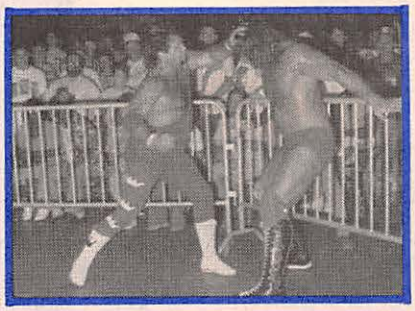
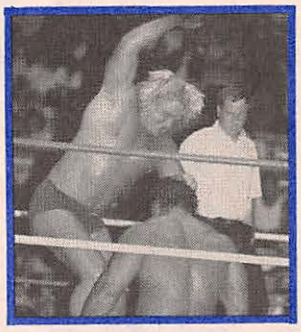
Inside Wrestling



World Class champion **KERRY VON ERICH** takes on AWA World champion **JERRY LAWLER**—and when worlds collide, *nobody* wins!



Find out why **DON MURACO** begged the WWF *not* to suspend **GREG VALENTINE**

PLUS . . .

TERRY GORDY, **MICHAEL HAYES**, and **BUDDY ROBERTS** explain why **THE FREEBIRD** feud must end! . . . "Hotseat" interview with **LEX LUGER**: "The world knows who the *real* champion is!" . . . **RONNIE** and **JIMMY GARVIN** face off "One on One" . . . **DUSTY RHODES** battles **BARRY WINDHAM**—and the teacher learns a lesson from the student!

All this and much more . . .
in the November 1988 issue of
Inside Wrestling

ON SALE NOW!

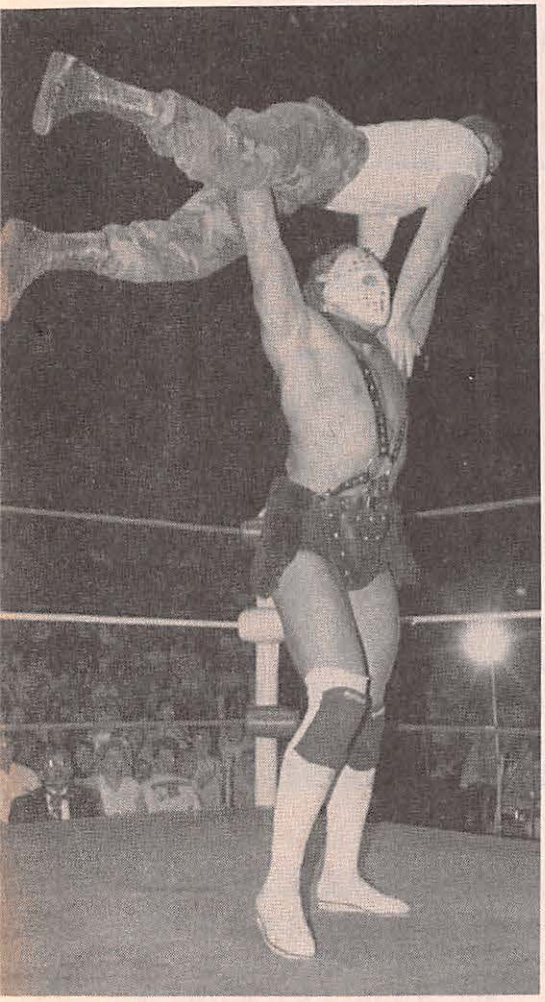
BETWEEN FALLS

(Continued from page 7)

CONTINENTAL COMRADE

I have been watching the Continental Wrestling Federation telecasts for a while now, and have seen one wrestler break away from the pack. This wrestler is Lord Humongous, the next Continental champion.

Humongous has dominated his opponents in his matches and has gotten rid of that puny manager

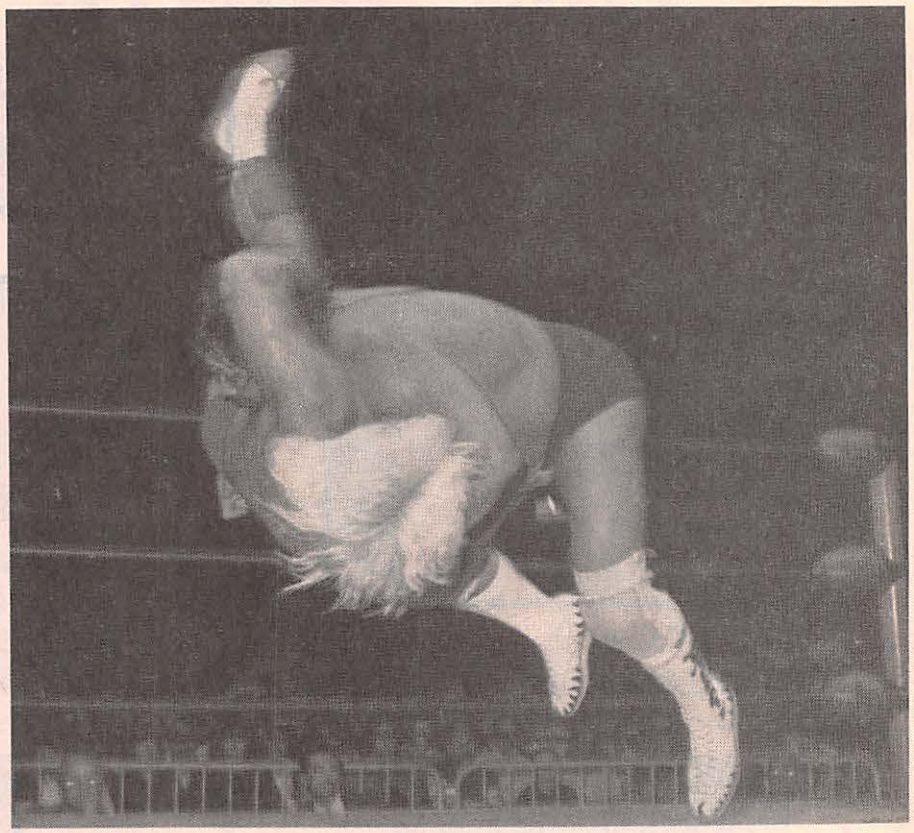


Humongous presses Private Mark Pyle high above his head. Thomas Whisenhunt feels that Humongous will be the next Continental champ.

Downtown Bruno. With his awesome physical development and incredible size, he'll be unstoppable.

I hope your fine magazine will cover the upcoming Continental title tournament. Somebody like him deserves the recognition.

THOMAS WHISENHUNT
Long Beach, CA



Steve Williams slams Ric Flair to the mat. "Dr. Death" has held several titles, including the UWF heavyweight championship.

DEFENDING DR. DEATH

As I was reading your October 1988 issue, I noticed a letter concerning "Dr. Death" Steve Williams by Matt Kirsch ("Dishonorable Discharge"). I would like to tell Mr. Kirsch that he has upset every Steve Williams fan in the country. Where did you hear that Williams is "a second-rate opponent" and someone who "couldn't wrestle his way out of a paper bag"?

I would like to inform you, Mr. Kirsch, that the good doctor was an All-American wrestler at the University of Oklahoma. He also held the now-defunct UWF heavyweight title, which he never lost. Another championship he has won is the *PWI*/UWF Cup, which earned him $50,000 and a secure spot in the hearts of fans everywhere.

"Dr. Death" also had 108 stitches put in his eye one day, but he still wrestled that night! Steve Williams is one of the best wrestlers in the sport today, so don't put him down—or you may find yourself caught in an "Oklahoma Stampede."

MICHAEL NORWOOD
Henderson, NC

DIRTY ROSENBAUM

I must say that after reading "No Holds Barred" in your October 1988 issue, I feel that Dave Rosenbaum is not the journalist he thinks he is.

Although he was unrelentless in his pursuit of the truth behind the Dirty White Girl/Tony Anthony beating incident, he seemed far more content to share cottage cheese and margaritas with Lady Mystic than to get to the absolute bottom of the domestic violence incident.

Sure, Rosenbaum acknowledges that domestic violence is a major social problem in this country, but

(Continued on page 52)

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September 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, Armstrong, Blair.

October 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rhodes, Santana, Piper.

November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Piper, Blair.

December 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rich, Kamala, Junkyard Dog.

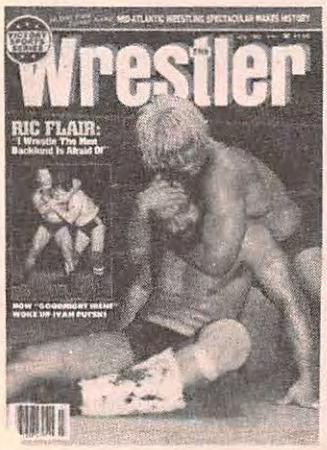
January 1983/Stories include: Putski, Muraco, Windham, Bockwinkel.

February 1983/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Backlund, Rich, Kamala.

April 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Tiger Mask, Sammartino, Bundy.

May 1983/Stories include: Samoans, Von Erich, Rhodes, Orndorff.

June 1983/Stories include: Windham, Martel, Brody, Andre.



JULY 1983

July 1983/Stories include: Flair, Adonis, Sullivan, Zbyszko.

August 1983/Stories include: Valentine, Blanchard, Windham, Street.

September 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Briscos.

October 1983/Stories include: Race, Sawyer, Briscos, Bass.

November 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Santana, Von Erichs, Kabuki.

December 1983/Stories include: Mascaras, Superstar, Von Erich, Zbyszko.

January 1984/Stories include: Valentine, Hogan, Von Erich, Road Warriors.

March 1984/Stories include: Santana, Hogan, Von Erich, Sawyers.

April 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Rhodes.

May 1984/Stories include: Windham, Brody, Road Warriors, Junkyard Dog.

June 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Billy Jack, Flair, Armstrong.

July 1984/Stories include: Rich, Billy Jack, Valiant, Von Erich.

August 1984/Stories include: Garvin, Sullivan, Freebirds, Street.

September 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Piper, Steamboat, Billy Jack.
October 1984/Stories include: Flair, Rhodes, Magnum T.A., Bundy.

November 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Von Erich, Piper, Brody.

December 1984/Stories include: Martel, Santana, Von Erich, Steamboat.

January 1985/Stories include: Von Erich, Warriors, Albano, Koloffs.

February 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Santana, Billy Jack, Nikita Koloff.

March 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Warriors, Martel, Rude.

April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Von Erich-Adams, Flair, Tonga & Snuka.

May 1985/Stories include: Warriors. Backlund, Santana, Rich.

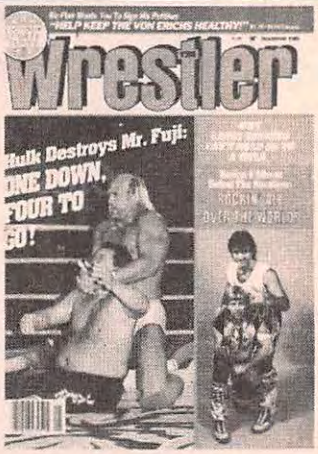
June 1985/Stories include: Rhodes, Windham, Rich, Hogan.

July 1985/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Reed, Martel, Sunshine.

August 1985/BONUS 4-PG. COLOR SECTION! Plus: Warriors, Magnum T.A., Sheik & Volkoff, McGraw.

September 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Savage, R&R Express.

October 1985/Stories include: Flair, Windham, Shultz, Martel.



NOVEMBER 1985

November 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Zbyszko, R&R Express, Von Erichs.

December 1985/Stories include: Rude, Fantastics, Muraco, Uncle Elmer.

January 1986/20th Anniversary Issue! 10 Greatest Wrestlers, Rhodes, Hogan, Sammartino.

February 1986/Stories include: Hogan, Orndorff, Flair, Hansen.

March 1986/Stories include: Von Erich, Duggan, Hansen-Martel.

April 1986/Stories include: Von Erich, Rude, Lugar, Hogan, Magnum T.A.

May 1986/Stories include: Zbyszko, Von Erichs, Santana-Ventura, Hillbillies.

June 1986/Stories include: Lugar, Hernandez, Flair-Bockwinkel, Hogan, T.A.

July 1986/Stories include: King Kong Bundy, Koloff vs. Graham, Ric Flair.

August 1986/Stories include: Snuka, Bulldogs, Freebirds, Warriors, Duggan.

September 1986/Stories include: Fantastics, Adonis, Morton-Flair, Brody.

October 1986/Stories include: Nikita-Magnum, Nord, Bruno, Kerry, Windham.

November 1986/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan-Orndorff, Von Erich.

December 1986/Stories include: Flair, Bockwinkel, Hogan, Gilbert, Nikita.

January 1987/Stories include: Heenan, Garvins, DiBiase, Borne & Sawyer.

February 1987/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Gordy, Steamboat-Roberts.

March 1987/Stories include: Windham, Nikita, Adias, Savage-Steamboat.

April 1987/Stories include: Hogan, Luger, Rich-Lawler, R&R Express.

May 1987/Stories include: Flair-Nikita, Andre-Hogan, UWF, Windham, Hennig.

June 1987/Stories include: Flair-Windham, Can-Ams, Rhodes-Murdoch.

July 1987/Stories include: Cornette, Hyatt, Luger, Harts, Adams, Hansen.

August 1987/Stories include: Can-Ams, Luger vs. Nikita, Fantastics, Koko, Nord.

September 1987/Stories include: Koloffs, Harts, Duggan, Hennig, Hart.

October 1987/Stories include: Savage-Honky Tonk, Horsemen, Patera, Kerry.

November 1987/Stories include: Williams, Luger, Hogan-Khan, Rich.

December 1987/Stories include: Hogan, Windham, Lawler, Flair, Beefcake.

January 1988/Stories include: Nikita-Taylor, Warriors, DiBiase-Duggan.

February 1988/Stories include: Flair, Andre-Hogan, New Breed, Kerry.

March 1988/Stories include: Hogan, Luger-Sting, Calgary, Demolition.

April 1988/Special issue! Starrcade '87, Survivor Series, AWA & World Class. Also: Strike Force, Luger, Rockers.

May 1988/Stories include: Horsemen, Hogan, Flair, Fantastics, DiBiase.

June 1988/Stories include: Sting-Flair, DiBiase, Kerry, Nikita, Zenk.

July 1988/Stories include: Fantastics, Hogan. Windham, McMahon, Rich.

August 1988/Stories include: Savage, Windham-Luger split, Demolition, Lawler, Ellering.

September 1988/Stories include: Duggan vs. Andre, Hogan, Windham.

THE WRESTLER

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(Continued from page 50)

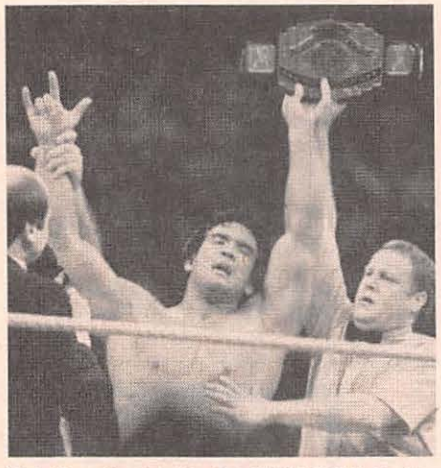
he allows Mystic to slink her way off the hook because she was able to feign having two distinct personalities.

I'm not sure what Rosenbaum thought he would discover by interviewing a person so devious as The Dirty White Girl, but I'm sure his lascivious motives weren't generated by journalistic integrity.

If Rosenbaum continues to be impressed by a "flowery Laura Ashley dress" and "flat white shoes," I will have to continue to be appalled by the ease with which this once-fine journalist is deceived. As far as I'm concerned, I'll no longer be fooled by what I thought was sensitivity. For Rosenbaum, sensitivity is nothing more than an excuse to have lunch with wrestling's lowest scum.

Clean up your act, Rosenbaum!

LORI SCHACK
Berkeley, CA



Rick Steamboat hoists the WWF I-C belt after his WrestleMania III win over Randy Savage.

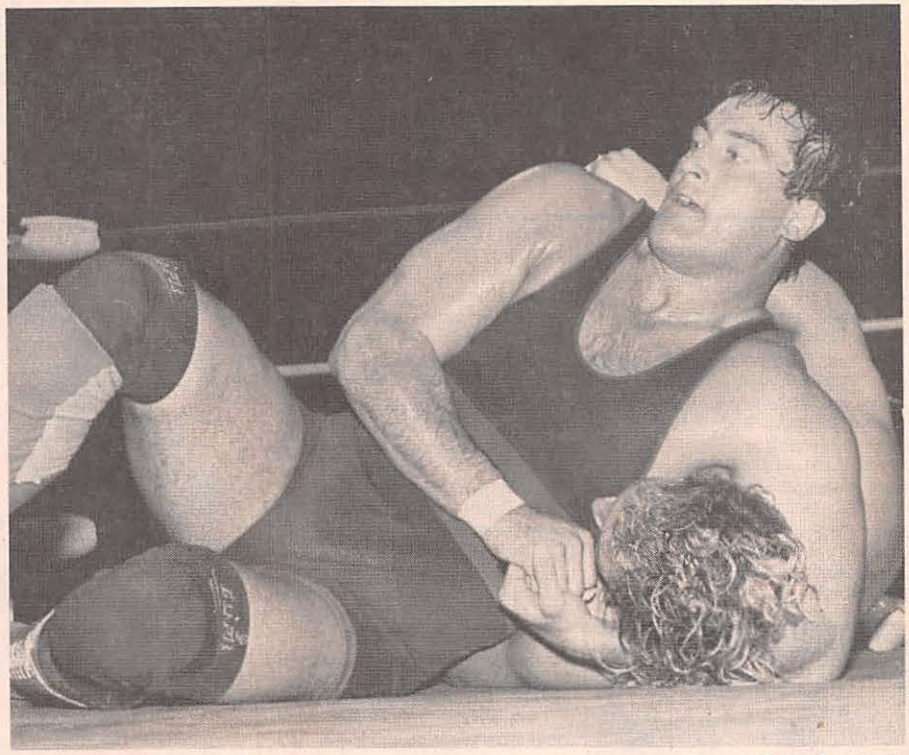
A TRUE DRAGON FAN

My God, I can't believe my eyes! I just finished reading your October 1988 "Press Conference" with Ricky Steamboat, and it hurt me deep down inside. I know he didn't actually say he's retiring, but when you come right down to it, that's what it said between the lines. Please, don't do it, Ricky.

I've been one of Rick Steamboat's biggest fans for about four years now. My favorite match was definitely when he defeated that chump "Macho Man" Randy Savage for the Intercontinental belt at WrestleMania III. Even though he didn't hold on to the I-C belt that long, in my opinion (and in the opinion of many, many others), Steamboat was the best I-C champ ever.

Steamboat has accomplished a great deal in his illustrious career. I wish it didn't have to come down to this, but if he needs a change, so be it. I, for one, am going to miss seeing him and his fantastic martial arts. He was the greatest.

TONY REYES
Oakland, CA



Mike Rotundo headlocks Kendall Windham. In the opinion of reader Paul Lipson, Rotundo ruined his career when he became a member of Kevin Sullivan's Varsity Club.

A GOOD PRESCRIPTION

I thought the article "Dr. Death's Prescription For Mike Rotundo: Quit The Varsity Club!" in your October 1988 issue was extremely insightful.

If you recall, Barry and Mike made a great tag team in the WWF a few years back. Both were fan favorites when they wrestled together as the U.S. Express. They even held the WWF World tag team title on two occasions.

Now, both are hated. Windham, admittedly, has found success on the bad side, but Rotundo is surely stagnating. Although a wrestler of great scientific gifts (as Steve Williams pointed out), he is betraying these gifts for the savagery practiced by his tutor, Kevin Sullivan.

"Dr. Death" is dead right. Mike Rotundo should get himself out of The Varsity Club—immediately! The glory that could be his is passing him by.

PAUL LIPSON
Bathgate, OK

THE SUN IS SETTING

I read your "Media Review" column on British wrestling with great interest. Without a doubt, wrestling in this country is dying on its feet. Although wrestling needs TV coverage to promote it, in our case it has also helped to destroy

it. The reason is that the commentaries are extremely dull; the matches are even duller. We need someone like Jesse Ventura to put forth an opposing point of view. Instead, we have Kent Walton, who describes the names of the holds and little else.

The fact that the contests are about two months old doesn't help either. Some WWF programs shown over here on ITV (the channel that is discontinuing coverage of native wrestling) are over a year old. On cable, however, we can watch the latest matches and almost feel we are a part of the atmosphere of the arena.

If Vince McMahon can bring some WWF stars over here, I can almost guarantee him that the arenas will be full. We're not asking much, just Randy Savage, Hulk Hogan, and even The Honky Tonk Man. And don't forget Elizabeth!

ALAN FISHER
Ilford, England □

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FROM THE DESK OF

(Continued from page 12)

the ring. Despite the countout, Somers and Rose were awarded the belts, and the AWA never provided a logical explanation for the sudden rule change.

Hennig was left a bitter man. His entire attitude changed. He tried to make a go of teaming with Greg Gagne, but that ended in disaster when Hennig attacked his own partner. For his part, Larry Hennig could not be happier. He knew that the special something that was lacking in his son was beginning to emerge. (Larry also was happy to see the revival of the Hennig-Gagne wars that he started with Greg's father, Verne, in the early '60s.)

On May 9, 1988, the dream of father and son was fulfilled. Hennig won the AWA World title in San Francisco when Larry Zbyszko handed him a roll of coins he used to hit Nick Bockwinkel and make the easiest and most important pin of his life. "My boy is a man," Larry Hennig would say.

The fans didn't necessarily agree, though they did recognize the great strides this second-generation wrestler had made in such a short amount of time. Hennig was voted Most Improved Wrestler of 1987 by the readers of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated.* When Senior Editor Bill Apter went on ESPN to present the award, he was greeted by a stranger. "I was taken by surprise," Apter said. "I've known Curt since he was a kid. We became close in 1980 when he was starting out in the WWF. I was shocked."

Hennig angrily declined the plaque, claiming that if the fans didn't recognize the fact that he deserved *Wrestler of the Year* honors, he didn't want anything to do with the *PWI* awards.

After a grueling year, most of which he wrestled with an assortment of injuries, Hennig lost the belt to Jerry Lawler in Memphis. He became frustrated when, instead of granting him a series of rematches, Lawler decided to devote his time to defending the belt in various federations across the country; World Class champion Kerry Von Erich received a series of matches, but Hennig didn't.

So now Hennig has returned to the WWF. From all indications, he has come full circle. In his match against Taylor in Milwaukee, a traditional AWA stronghold, he adhered to the rules and received a mixed reaction from the fans. It appears to me that he wants to see if he can find his way back to the top of the sport without having to take shortcuts. So he has gone back to where he first sought success in the sport—the WWF.

I hope he can do it. But if can't and gets frustrated again, I pity the people who depend on his trust. ☐

Terry Taylor sits out in an effort to escape Curt Hennig's sleeperhold. Hennig is back in the WWF, hoping to work his way back into world title contention.

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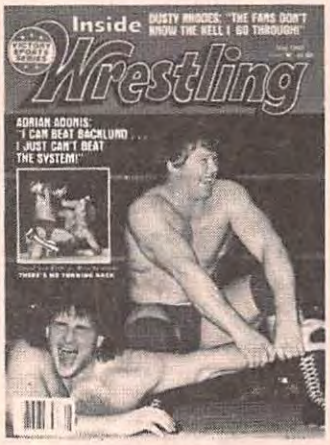
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Wrestling
DUSTY RHODES: "THE FANS DON'T KNOW THE HELL I GO THROUGH!"
ADRIAN ADONIS: "I CAN BEAT BACKLUND . . . I JUST CAN'T BEAT THE SYSTEM!"

MAY 1982

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June 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Von Erich, Slaughter, Morales.
July 1982/Stories include: Hogan, Rhodes, Steamboat, Adonis.
August 1982/Stories include: Andre, Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Backlund.
September 1982/Stories include: Atlas, Piper, Lawler, Brody.
October 1982/Stories include: Rich, Andre, Piper, Dillon.
November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Von Erich, Slaughter.
December 1982/Stories include: Mulligan, Rich, Lawler, Grand Wizard.
February 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, DiBiase, Race.
March 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Graham, Johnson, Funk.
April 1983/Stories include: Snuka, Patera, Kabuki, Rich.
May 1983/Stories include: Rich, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat.
June 1983/Stories include: Studd, Garvin, Rogers, Orton.
July 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Freebirds, Rhodes, Youngblood.
August 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Garvin, Sullivan, Lawler.
September 1983/Stories include: Zbyszko, Piper, Andre, Hayes.
October 1983/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Junkyard Dog, Rhodes.
November 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Reed, Von Erich, Dillon.
December 1983/Stories include: Von Erich, Samoans, Valiant, Road Warriors.
March 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Rich, Rhodes, Garvin.
April 1984/Stories include: Flair, Steamboat, Superstar, Windham.
May 1984/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Steamboat, Rotundo, Von Erich.
June 1984/Stories include: Flair, Slaughter, Cornette, DiBiase.
July 1984/Stories include: Valiant, Flair, Martel, Wrestling II.
August 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Idol, Spoiler.
September 1984/Stories include: Martel, Brody, Von Erich, Iron Sheik.
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January 1985/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Rhodes, Atlas, Von Erich.
February 1985/Stories include: Rich, Adams, Valiant, Flair.
March 1985/Stories include: Backlund, Billy Jack, Koloffs, Von Erichs.
April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Albano & Hogan, Steamboat, Gordy.
May 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Garvin, Albano, Koloffs.
June 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Slaughter, Von Erichs, Studd & Patera.
July 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Nikita, Warriors.
August 1985/Stories include: Wrestlemania, Zbyszko vs. The Tonga Kid.
September 1985/Stories include: Piper, Flair, Fantastics, Magnum T.A.
October 1985/Stories include: Russian menace, Von Erichs, Rude & Barr.
November 1985/Stories include: Steamboat, Adams, Freebirds, Cornette.
December 1985/Stories include: Santana, Brody, Andersons, Murdoch.
January 1986/Stories include: Steamboat, Mike Von Erich, Warriors.
February 1986/Stories include: R'n'R Express, Warriors, Mulligan & Windham.

MARCH 1986

March 1986/Stories include: Windham & Rotundo, Warriors-Russians, Rude.
April 1986/Stories include: Scott Hall, Rhodes, Flair, Andre, Bill Watts
May 1986/Stories include: Randy Savage, Stan Hansen, Rock 'n' Rolls.
June 1986/Stories include: Bulldogs, Windham-Flair, Lance Von, Blanchard.
July 1986/All-American Special Issue. Stories include: Hogan, Slaughter, T.A.
August 1986/Stories include: WrestleMania 2, Garvins, Martel, Fab Ones.
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February 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Piper-Orndorff, Taylor, Flair.
March 1987/Stories include: Flair, Missy, Luger, Bulldogs, Koloffs.
April 1987/Stories include: Windham, Steamboat, Ellering, Duggan.
May 1987/Stories include: Windham & Luger, Steamboat, Hogan-Andre.
June 1987/Stories include: Piper-Adonis, Horsemen, Adams, Hall, Brody.
July 1987/Stories include: Danny Davis, DiBiase, Rockers, Rotundo, Andersons.
August 1987/Stories include: Dusty & Nikita, Hogan, Mike Von, Cornette.
September 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Race, R&R Exp., Rich, Honky Tonk.
October 1987/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan, Taylor-Adams, Lawler.
November 1987/Stories include: War Games, Mr. T, Bulldogs, Rhodes.
December 1987/Stories include: Freebirds, Rhodes, Magnum, Savage, Perez.
January 1988/Stories include: R&R-Horsemen, Hogan, Flair-Garvin.
February 1988/Stories include: Savage, Kevin Von, Sting, Tully & Arn.
March 1988/Stories include: Bigelow, Adams, Koloff, Honky Tonk, Freebirds.
April 1988/Stories include: Luger-Flair, Ultimate Warrior, Andre-Hogan-DiBiase.
May 1988/Stories include: Zbyszko, DiBiase, Warriors, Rockers, Fritz Von.
June 1988/Stories include: Warriors, Savage, R&R Express, Baby Doll.
July 1988/Stories include: Hogan-Savage-DiBiase, Kerry & Hayes, Sting.
August 1988/Stories include: Savage, Missy Hyatt, Sting, Hayes, Honky Tonk.
September 1988/SPECIAL ISSUE: Color coverage of WMIV, Parade of Champs, Crockett Cup. Plus: Lawler, Von Erich, Hart, Cornette.

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☐ AUG 82	☐ OCT 84	☐ SEPT 86	☐ AUG 88
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☐ OCT 83	☐ NOV 85	☐ OCT 87	
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☐ DEC 83	☐ JAN 86	☐ DEC 87	
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NO HOLDS BARRED

(Continued from page 16)

vented his certain demise. Occasionally—remember the Survivor Series?—Honky Tonk has taken a walk when in trouble. But before you start criticizing Honky Tonk, remember that when he really has to, Honky Tonk can beat the best. When he first won the I-C title, he beat Steamboat on a clean pin.

It's interesting to hear people put down Honky Tonk now that he's held the belt for so long. When Honky first won the title, people said, "Well, he won the belt, let's see how long he can keep it. *That* will be the true test." And now that Honky's held the belt for over 14 months, those same people are saying that longevity isn't the true test of a champion (one of these people is Managing Editor Craig Peters). This double standard simply exposes their prejudices.

Here's a list of current champions in all of wrestling (that includes the United States, Puerto Rico, Canada, and Japan) who have held their titles longer than Honky Tonk, and the dates they won their belts:

All-Japan junior heavyweight champion Masanobu Fuchi (January 3, 1987).

World Pacific champion Superfly Tui (April 11, 1987).

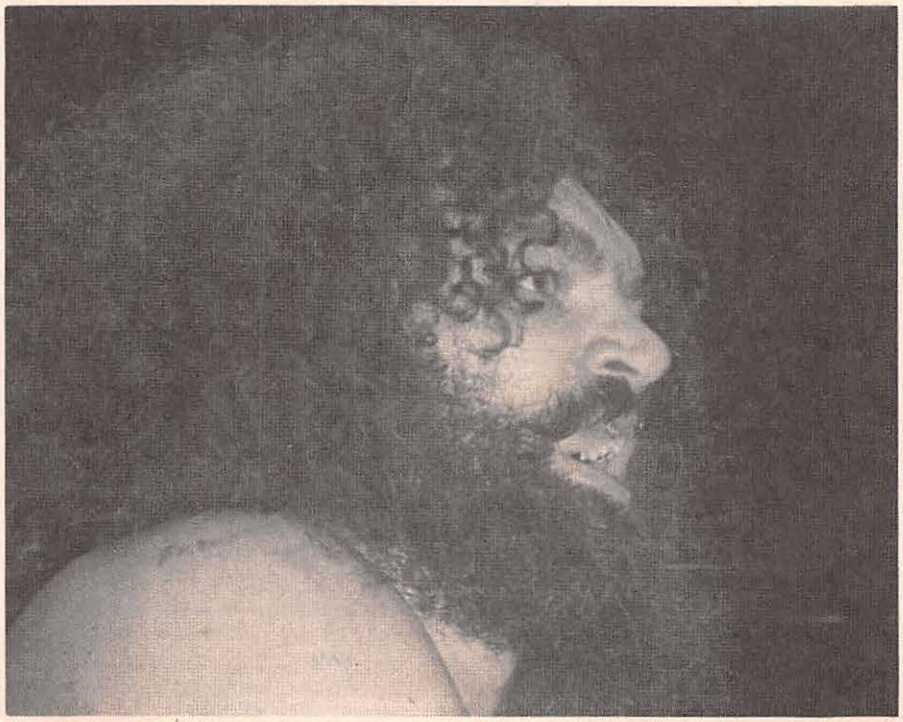
That's it. Florida champion Mike Rotundo (April 18, 1987) cannot be considered because he rarely defends his belt.

Honky Tonk is an unorthodox wrestler. He wears bright Elvis Presley-type clothes into the ring. He sings, dances, and plays the guitar before and after his matches. He has a *big* mouth. But he is, undoubtedly, the most entertaining wrestler in the WWF, if not the entire sport.

And now he's the greatest Intercontinental champion ever.

* * *

Wrestlers spend a tremendous amount of time traveling. So while the vehicular deaths of Adrian Adonis a few months ago and Bobby Shane 15 years ago are tragic, they aren't altogether shocking. Like ring injuries, the risks of constant auto and air trav-



The legendary Bruiser Brody was stabbed to death in the dressing room of Juan Ramon Lobriel Stadium in Bayamon, Puerto Rico, on July 16.

el are an accepted part of professional wrestling.

Think about it: Do any professional athletes travel as much as pro wrestlers? Baseball players go to a city and play a three- or four-game series before going on to the next city. Hockey and basketball teams play only 40 road games a year. Football teams play eight road games a year. Golfers are in one location for a week; tennis players as much as two weeks. Boxers fight once or twice a year.

Professional wrestlers are in a different city every day. The NWA's recent Great American Bash tour is a prime example. World champion Ric Flair, who can afford to miss a night's work here or there, had this eight-day schedule starting July 3: Amarillo, Texas; Dallas; Miami; Tampa, Florida; Raleigh, North Carolina; Pittsburgh; Chicago; Baltimore.

This not only wears down the body and the mind, it also reduces the chances of getting safely from one place to another. Get in a car or plane enough times and the law of averages starts working against you.

So there's risk involved in being a wrestler, both in and out of the ring. And we all mourn the deaths of Adrian Adonis, "Wildman" Dave McKigney, and Pat Kelly, who perished in a Newfoundland auto accident on July 4.

But now we must mourn a wrestler's death that involved neither ring nor road. Bruiser Brody was stabbed in the dressing room of Juan Ramon Lobriel Stadium in Bayamon, Puerto Rico, on July 17 prior to a wrestling card.

"If a wrestler can't be safe in the dressing room," said Dutch Mantel a few days after Brody's death, "where can he be safe? It's a sanctuary. That's where our brothers are."

Fellow wrestler Jose Gonzales—a "brother"—was charged with the murder. □

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BRUISER BRODY

(Continued from page 45)

on July 17, 1988, in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The previous evening, Saturday July 16, Brody was stabbed in the locker room of Juan Ramon Lobriel Stadium in Bayamon, Puerto Rico, prior to a World Wrestling Council card. On July 19, wrestler Jose Huertas Gonzalez was arrested and charged with first-degree murder and weapons violations.

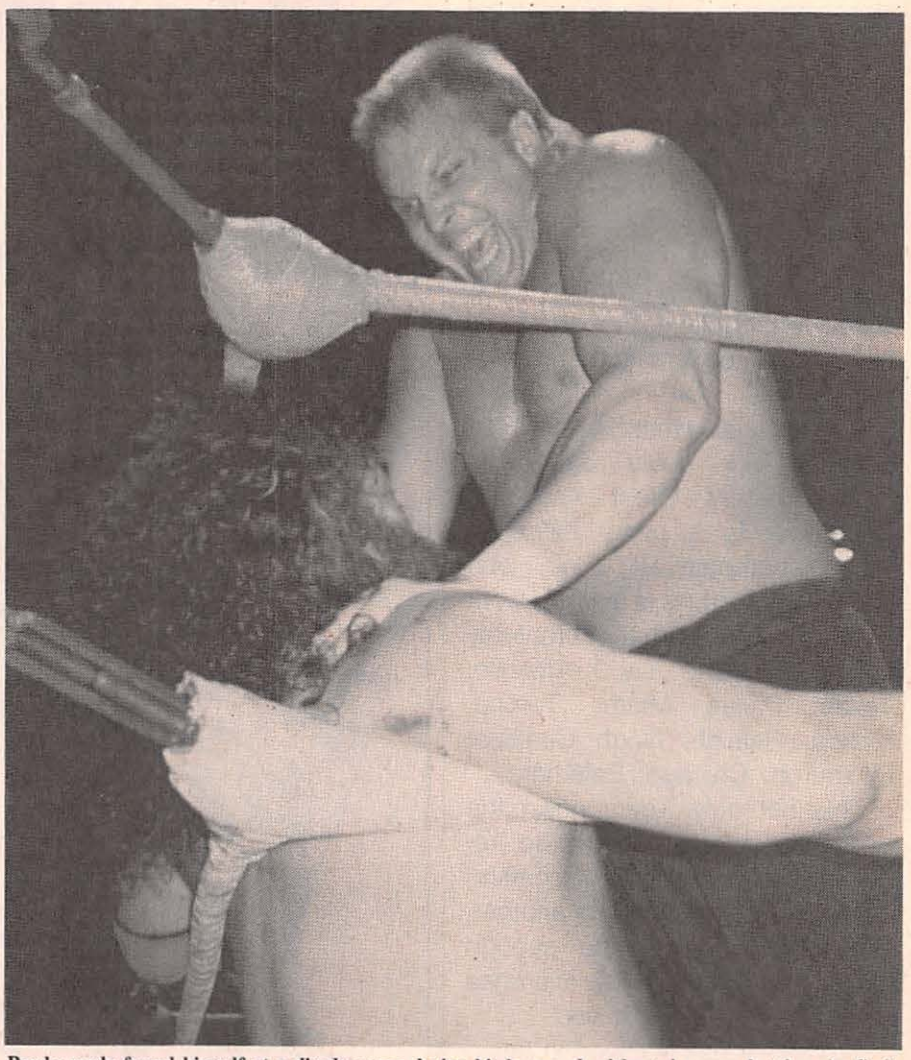
The following story was reported by Eddie Gries, who was in Puerto Rico with Brody at the time of his death and took the accompanying photographs.

IT WAS EARLY afternoon on Wednesday, July 13, 1988, when Bruiser Brody stepped off of a Delta Airlines plane in San Juan after a flight from Atlanta. Abdullah the Butcher was on the same plane, but neither Abdullah nor Brody knew it. Nor did they know that it was to be Brody's last trip to Puerto Rico.

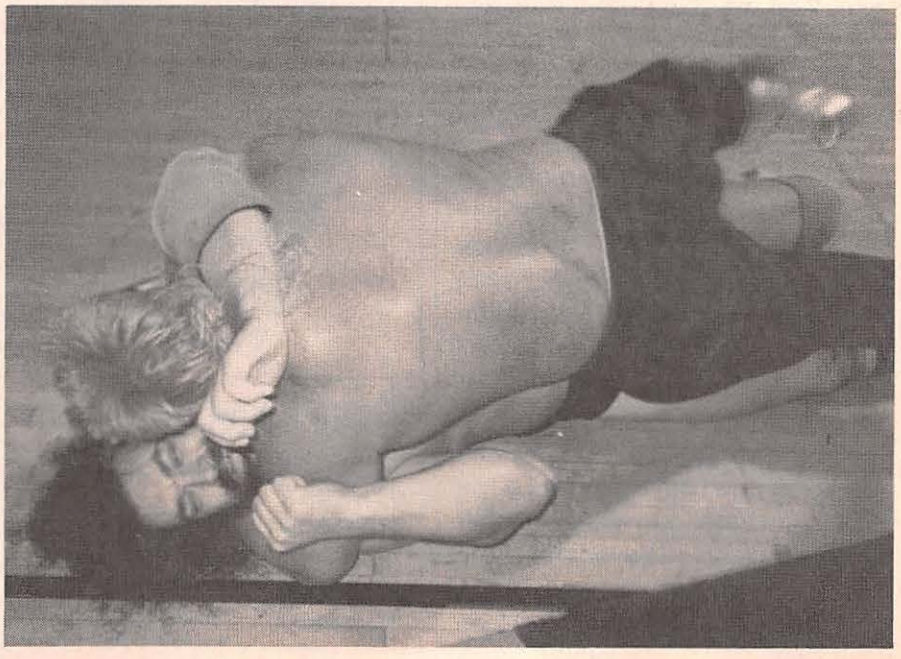
That night, Brody arrived at the matches in Catano with his good friend Victor Quinones. He knew that he was in for a busy night, but being the cool professional that he was, it didn't faze him in the least. Brody dispatched three preliminary wrestlers—The Rebel, The Assassin, and Exoticia—before taking on Abdullah the Butcher in a brutal match that would end in a double-disqualification. The sellout crowd wildly cheered Brody in each match.

Afterward, Brody, Quinones, and I went out for a hearty dinner and a few beers. Brody was totally relaxed and spoke of how much he wanted to cut down on his ring schedule and spend more time with his wife, Barbara, and son, Geoffrey. He wanted to take them to places like the Grand Canyon and Disneyland, and to do more fishing.

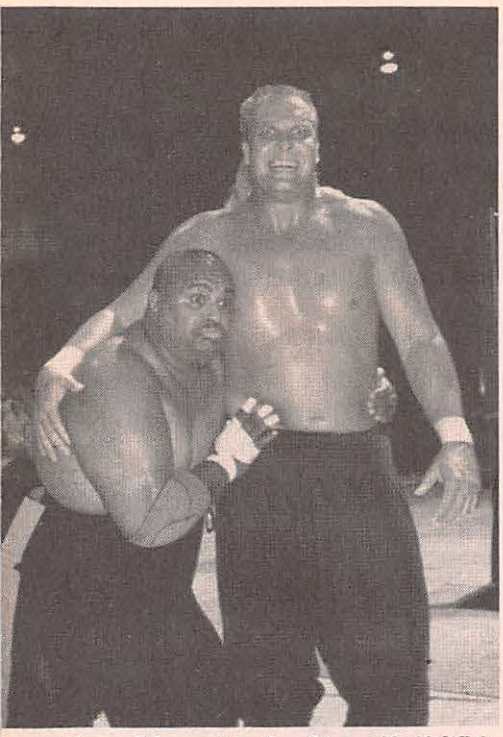
That Friday night in Ponce, Brody and Carlos Colon wrestled Abdullah the Butcher and "Dangerous" Danny Spivey in a match that all the fans were waiting for. I was the only photographer present and had an impossible time keeping up with the action



Brody rarely found himself at a disadvantage during his long and celebrated career, but here he finds himself strangled by an irate Spivey.



The last wrestling photo ever taken of Bruiser Brody: Spivey and Brody brawl on the arena floor while, in the ring, Abdullah gains a pinfall on Colon.



Danny Spivey, celebrating victory with Abdullah, was scheduled to wrestle Brody one on one in Bayamon the night Bruiser was stabbed.

inside and outside the ring. The match finally ended with Brody and Spivey battling on the arena floor. Inside the ring, Abdullah had split Colon's head open with a foreign object when the referee wasn't looking and covered him for the three-count. Pandemonium broke loose in the stands. The fans had witnessed one of the wildest matches in Puerto Rican history.

I was supposed to drive back to the hotel with Brody that night, but somehow we were separated. I never saw Brody again.

Saturday night in Bayamon, something happened. Brody was supposed to battle Dan Spivey man-to-man in the squared circle, but it was not to be. Abdullah fought Colon that night and was getting the best of him to such a degree that hundreds of fans yelled in unison, "Ush! Ush! Ush!," waiting for Brody to come to the aid of Carlos. He never came.

Bruiser Brody died in a San Juan hospital early Sunday morning. It has been said that when Abdullah, his archrival in some of the bloodiest matches the world has ever seen, heard that Brody was gone forever, a tear fell from his eye.

Goodbye, Frank, and God bless you. □

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(Continued from page 20)

good comes from an alliance with Hulk Hogan except for Hulk Hogan."

You must admit Savage wouldn't be WWF champion without Hogan's help.

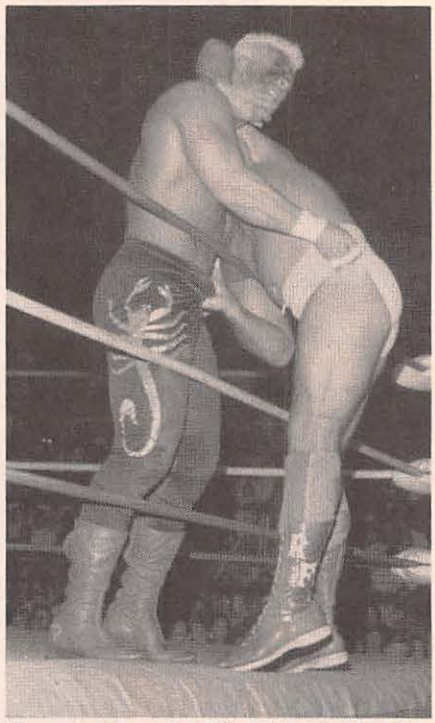
BRIAN FARENELL
Glens Falls, NY

Mr. Farenell,

When I first saw your letter, I thought anyone with the resources to *type* a letter must be pretty smart, or at least have a willing secretary. After reading your letter, I realize you must have a willing secretary. Of course, you recall the tearjerking moment when Hogan rushed the ring, at the desperate request of Elizabeth, and saved Savage from the clutches of The Honky Tonk Man and The Hart Foundation. You recall the muscle Hogan donated to Savage's title match against Ted DiBiase. You say: "Hulk Hogan, what a guy! Only a selfless human being would risk his neck to help a friend win a championship *that was stolen from him only weeks before.* Without him, by gosh, Randy Savage would not be WWF champion." I say you're swimming in cesspools. Savage would be WWF champion without Hogan's "help." Perhaps he wouldn't have won the tournament, but eventually his skills would have undressed DiBiase like a department store dummy. Now, months later, Savage begins to feel the weight of his obligation to Hogan. As we speak, Hogan has "consented" to be managed by Elizabeth. You've got to believe "The Macho Man" is all broken up about this. Believe me, it's just the beginning—it will get increasingly worse. Owing Hogan a favor is worse than owing five grand to a mob shylock. They can shake hands till doomsday, but remember this: Randy Savage hates Hulk Hogan. I predict a violent eruption between them before the end of the year.

Dear Mr. Ellner,

I'd like to discuss Sting with you. He is without equal in his combination



Sting tries to suplex Ric Flair into the ring. Should the youngster win Flair's World title, I hope he won't adopt Flair's pathetic attitude toward the championship.

of lightning speed, great strength, and incredible leaping ability. He has all the tools to become World champion. I find, however, that his attitude is somewhat lacking. He never backs down, and I admire that, but he should show respect for the ability of Ric Flair—the champion he has yet to defeat for the NWA World title. Despite Sting's insistence that Flair is not a worthy champion, the fact remains: He is the champ. If Sting channeled his energy toward Flair, tempered with a bit of respect, he may be more successful.

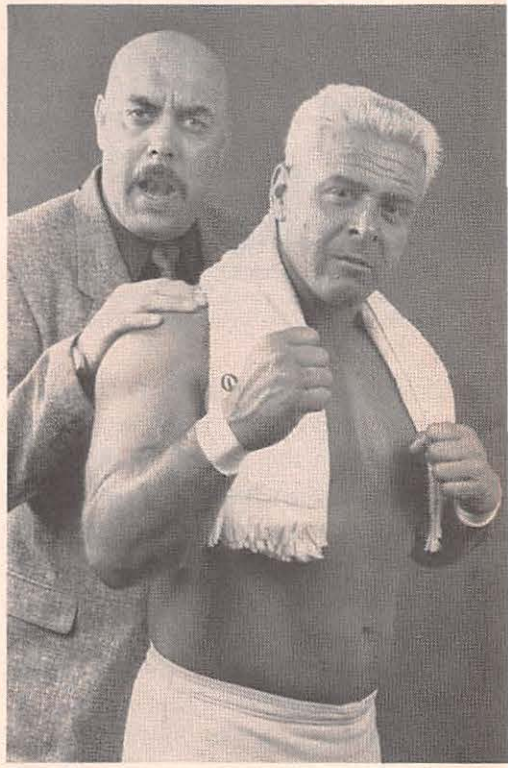
PAT FERGUSON
New Boston, MI

Dear Mr. Ferguson,

I agree that the office of champion, like the office of President, deserves the respect of everyone, especially those who aspire to its worthy heights. However, when the possessor of the crown is a cowardly, lying sneak, incapable of fighting his own battles, he deserves our contempt. He is not only cheating the sport on his way to the top, he is blaspheming a revered and sacred trust. Ric Flair no longer deserves the respect of his peers or the fans. Sting should respect the title, but not the titleholder. Should he beat the man, we pray he will not *be* the man.

Dear Eddie,

Thanks to the masterminding genius of James J. Dillon and Gary Hart, the latest wrestler to join the "Let's Turn



Gary Hart is now managing "Hands of Stone" Ronnie Garvin. It's a development in Garvin's career that should have happened long ago.

Against Dusty Rhodes" bandwagon is Ronnie Garvin. What are your thoughts on this shocking occurrence?

AMY PINKNEY
Fayetteville, NC

Dear Amy,

I'm sorry it took Garvin this long. A change in philosophy a couple of months sooner would have prolonged his title reign. I believe fat people eat so much because they are sad and lonely. As Dusty's personality defects become more publicized, and he is abandoned by more and more of his so-called friends, look for The Fat Man to establish Guiness Book of World Records-calibre eating habits. □

PRO-WRESTLING HALL OF FAME

P.O. BOX 899 MIDDLE ISLAND, NEW YORK 11953

We would like to thank the many fans and members of the wrestling community who replied to our ad in the September 1988 issue of Pro Wrestling Illustrated. Because the response was overwhelming, please bear with us if you've yet to receive the information you've requested. You will shortly.

We would also like to once again congratulate the wrestlers elected to the Hall for 1988 — **Bob Backlund, Ric Flair, Robert Gibson, Hulk Hogan, Rick Martel, Wahoo McDaniel, Rick Morton, Bob Orton Jr., Dusty Rhodes, Wendi Richter, Tito Santana, Greg Valentine and Kevin Von Erich.**

And this brings us to the subject of this ad — the election of the wrestling community's elite to the Pro-Wrestling Hall of Fame (PWHF)® for 1989.

Beginning this year, you, the wrestling fan, will now vote for the wrestlers you feel belong in the Hall. To do this, choose a maximum of five (5) names from the adjacent list of 50 names in your order of preferences (with tag-teams counting as one selection). The person you pick to fill the #1 position is who you feel the **BEST** individual/wrestler is and so forth. Therefore, before you select the athlete, you should carefully weigh his or her merits.

Some factors you might consider in reaching your decisions are the following: (1) the athlete's personal and professional accomplishments; (2) wrestling skill and ability; (3) longevity; (4) public service contributions to the sport; (5) championships and titles held; (6) reputation and notoriety; (7) caliber of opposition; (8) technical knowledge and ring intelligence.

You should also select your choices very carefully as the names on the list will not be repeated next year.

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You will receive a **free lifetime membership** to the PWHF (valued at over $100) if you ballot matches the **final order** of election (#s 1 to 5).

Your selections must be postmarked no later than January 15, 1989. (This ad will not be repeated) All results of the balloting and all **BONUS** winners will be published in a future 1989 issue of Pro Wrestling Illustrated. Address your picks to: PWHF, Inc.-Balloting; P.O. Box 899; Middle Island, N.Y. 11953.

The Candidates

Adams, Chris
Adias, Brian
Adonis, Adrian
Anderson, Arn
Armstrong, Bob
Atlas, Tony
Blackwell, Jerry
Blanchard, Tully
Combs, Cora
DiBiase, Ted
The Fantastics
Garea, Tony
Garvin, Ronnie
Gordy, Terry
Greene, Susan
Hart, Bret
Hennig, Curt
Idol, Austin
Johnson, Rocky
Junkyard Dog
Koloff, Ivan
Landell, Buddy
Midnight Express
Muraco, Don
Murdoch, Dick
Olsonowski, Steve
Orndorff, Paul
Piper, Roddy
Putski, Ivan
Rich, Tommy
Rivera, Victor
Road Warriors
Roberts, Jake
Savage, Randy
Sawyer, Buzz
The Sheepherders
The Iron Sheik
Simmes, Misty Blue
Slater, Dick
Steele, George
Strongbow, Jay
Studd, Big John
Sullivan, Kevin
Taylor, Terry
Tenryu, Genichiro
Von Erich, Kerry
Williams, Steve
Williams, Vicki
Windham, Barry
Zbyszko, Larry

My five choices for selection to the Hall of Fame for 1989, in order of preference are: 1. _____

2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____

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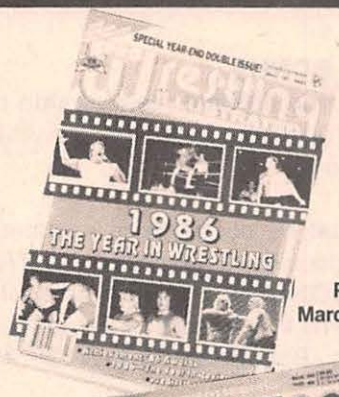

PWI March 1987

PWI March 1988

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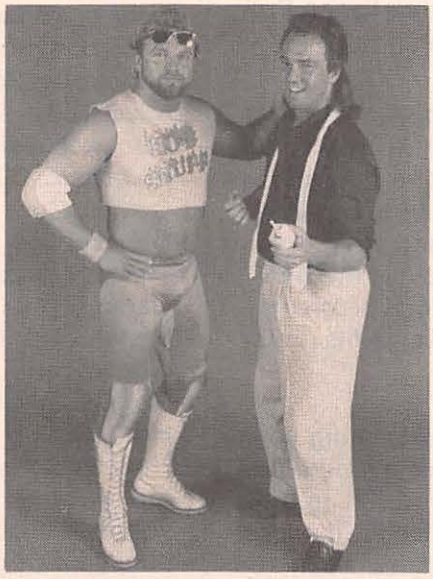
(Continued from page 10)

The Ninja Express . . . **Lance Idol**, a 6'5", 225-pounder from Hollywood, California, is a newcomer to the Stampede area. Idol is hoping to get a shot at North American champion **Makhan Singh** . . . Stampede officials are negotiating with **The Windy City Terminators** and **Hercules Ayala** . . . **Yumiko Hotta** and **Mitsuko Nishiwaki—The Fire Jets**—won the All-Japan women's tag team championship from **Bull Nakano** and **Kumiko Iwamoto** on July 17 in Tokyo. This was a startling victory, because Nakano and Iwamoto had actually used rusty nails and scissors to bloody The Fire Jets prior to the Jets' title-winning rally.

Continental official **Ron West** has suspended **Paul E. Dangerously** and **Eddie Gilbert** for beating up



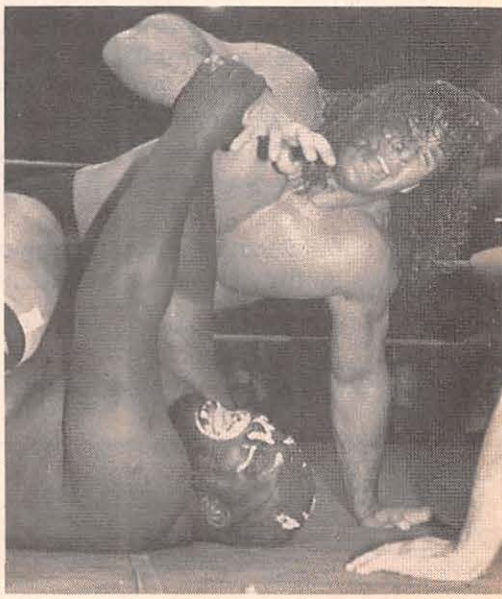
Eddie Gilbert and his manager, Paul E. Dangerously, have been suspended by Continental officials for attacking 14-year-old Willie B. Hert Jr.

14-year-old **Willie B. Hert Jr.** and photographer **Sam Lowe**, and for throwing fire at **Austin Idol** and referee **John Keaton**. The suspension was lifted after two weeks, however, at the request of **Willie B. Hert Sr.** "That's the only way I can get revenge," Hert said. "If they're not in the ring, I can't lay my hands on them suckers. I don't need Ron West to do my dirty work for me."

In an unusual move, West then decided to let the fans decide by a write-in vote if Gilbert and Dangerously should be suspended for life from the Continental area. The odds seem to be against Gilbert and Dangerously, who are probably the two most hated men in the area. "That's something Mr. Gilbert and Mr. Dangerously are going to have to deal with," West said. "I gave them a second chance. The fans can judge for themselves whether Gilbert and Dangerously belong in this sport. Personally, I have my doubts."

Col. DeBeers is now wrestling in the Pacific Northwest and is feuding with **Mike Golden** and **Steve Doll**. Another ex-AWA star, **Buddy Rose**, has interfered on DeBeers' behalf in several matches. DeBeers is planning to split his time between the Pacific Northwest and the AWA . . . **Gen. Skandor Akbar** has hurt **Iceman Parsons** more than he's helped him in matches against Texas champion **Kevin Von Erich**. Parsons has been disqualified several times recently for Akbar's interference . . . **Phil Hickerson** is defending his CWA title against **Scott Steiner** . . . **Gene Okerlund** is back with the WWF and will probably rejoin the regular broadcasting team before long.

More inter-federation wars: **Kerry**



Kerry Von Erich tries to penetrate Kamala's defenses to apply his claw.

Von Erich (World Class) will team with former rival **Vince Apollo** (Central States) against WWA champion **Mike George** and **Kamala** (World Class). Apollo was formerly a manager in World Class, having joined forces with **Gary Hart** in "New Age Management." But Apollo has since cleaned up his act, dropped the managerial duties, and become a full-time wrestler.

Kerry, meanwhile, said that he's happy to team with Apollo. "I believe that people **can** change for the better, and Vince is living proof," the WCCW champion said. "Me and Vince have had our differences, but that's all a part of the past." Of course, the best part about this is that the fans get to see stars from different federations wrestle each other.

Carlos Colon lost the WWC Universal title to **Hercules Ayala** on July 23 in Arecibo, Puerto Rico, but has not given up his hopes of regaining the belt. "I feel like that belt is mine and he's just borrowing it," Colon said . . . **Terry Gordy** is slated to team with **Steve** and **Shaun Simpson** against **Black Bart**, **John Tatum**, and **Jack Victory** in a series of six-man tag team matches. Gordy recently returned to World Class after a tour of Japan.

Are **The Outlaws** back together? After **Dusty Rhodes** and **The Sheik** defeated **Dick Murdoch** and **Kevin Sullivan** in the main event of the NWA's July 31 Great American Bash card in Detroit, Sheik turned against Rhodes and helped Sullivan beat him up. Then, to the surprise of everyone, Murdoch rescued Dusty. So it now looks like Murdoch and Rhodes will reunite as a team.

And a final note: **Randy Gordon**, former Associate Editor of **Pro Wrestling Illustrated**, was recently named Chairman of the New York State Athletic Commission, which governs boxing and wrestling. Gordon left his post as commentator on Madison Square Garden boxing cablecasts to replace **Jose Torres**.

That's all for now. See you at the matches! □

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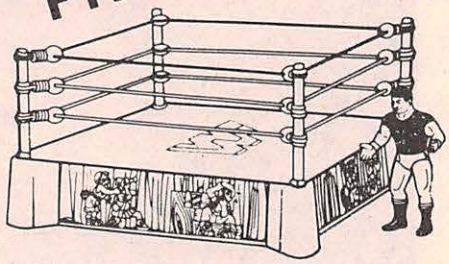

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(Continued from page 31)

refers to you as his "Patti."

PRECIOUS: **So he calls me by my real name, big deal! He's been going around telling people that we've done this and that in the past. I want to tell you people that it's all just a big, vicious lie. Sullivan means nothing to me and he never has. I've never heard such a crock in all my life.**

SAKS: But you'd have to admit that *something* had quite an effect on you following the kidnapping incident. You even came out to ringside during matches involving Sullivan, and Jimmy had to bring you back to the locker room.

PRECIOUS: **That's because I've never hated anybody as much in my whole life like I hate Kevin Sullivan. Something in my mind told me that I should keep my eyes on him at all times; I didn't want to let that man out of my sight. I realize that I was putting Jimmy through a lot of stress at that point, but I had to do it. Believe me, I had my reasons for acting the way I did.**

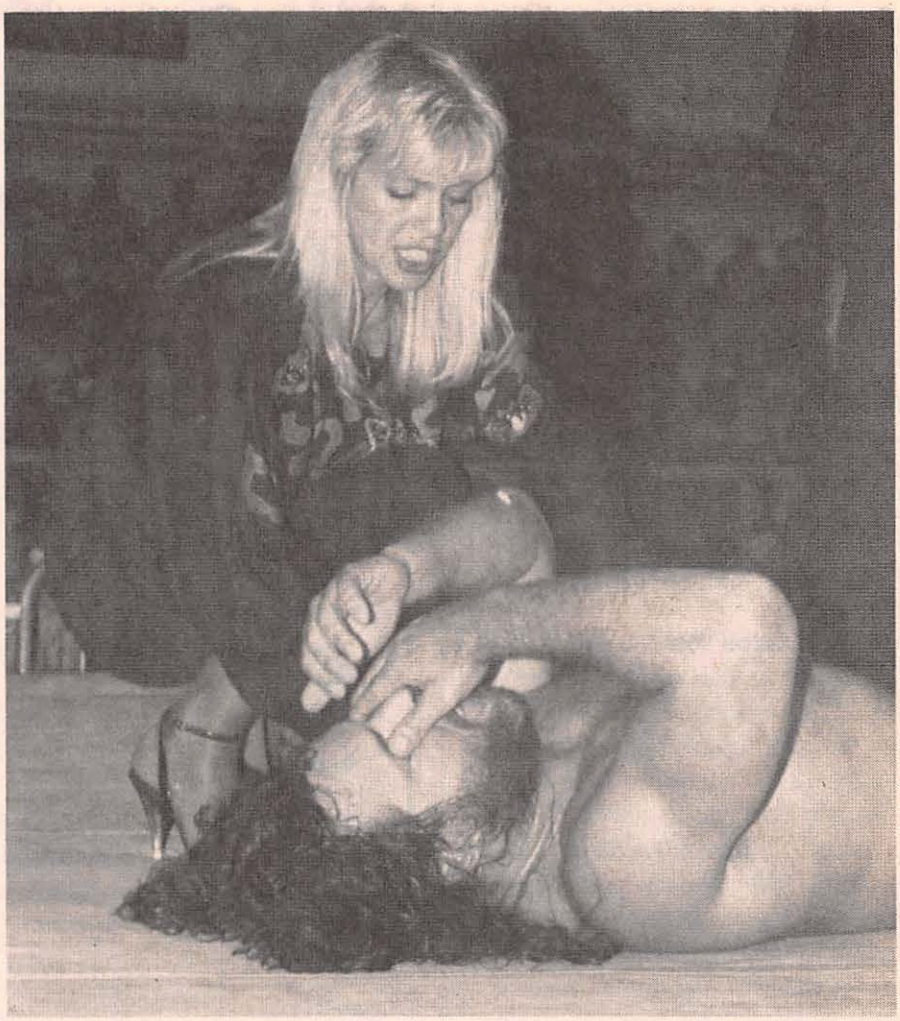
SMITH: Were there any reasons for not telling the fans that you and Jimmy are married? Jimmy told the public that for the first time right before the Baltimore Great American Bash.

PRECIOUS: **Well, it's just like Jimmy told you, Bob, we don't feel our personal lives are anybody's business but our own. But it's Sullivan's way to get under your skin with all this psychological stuff. I think it's his way of trying to make up for his obvious lack of wrestling skills, and I'm *so* glad that Jimmy and Road Warrior Hawk got a chance to knock the stuffing out of him in Baltimore. When our team won that "Tower of Doom" cage match, it was like the weight of the world was lifted off my shoulders, and now I'm getting back to a normal schedule again.**

ROSENBAUM: Not everything can be normal again, though.

PRECIOUS: **What do you mean?**

ROSENBAUM: On that same Baltimore card, Ronnie Garvin turned against Dusty Rhodes, and now Ronnie is a member of Gary Hart's stable of wrestlers. Did you see any trouble brewing with Ronnie in the weeks that preceded that card?



Precious tends to a fallen Jim Garvin following a match in Philadelphia against Mike Rotundo, a member of Sullivan's Varsity Club. Precious is anxious to see Garvin take on Sullivan—one on one.

PRECIOUS: **To tell you the truth, I really wasn't paying much attention to Ronnie with all my own problems going on. And it's true that things can never be the same between me and Jimmy and Ronnie again. I don't know what got into Ronnie, because we all used to be close. Now he sells his services to the highest bidder. In a way, I kind of blame myself for what has happened to him. I know that all of Jimmy's attention was focused on me because of our problems with Sullivan, and neither of us were spending a lot of time with Ronnie. I thought that Ronnie might have been leaving us alone because of the whole sordid Sullivan mess.**

SMITH: Do you think that Ronnie and Jimmy will ever have to face each other in the ring?

PRECIOUS: **I don't even want to think about that right now. *Damn* that Sullivan! Sometimes I think he's the devil himself. *He's* the reason for all this trouble.**

SAKS: From the tone of your voice, we can assume that things are a long way from being finished with Sullivan as far as you and Jimmy are concerned.

PRECIOUS: **You've got that right, Stu. Now that both me and Jimmy are feeling a little better about things, we've decided to strike while the fire is still burning in our hearts. We've enlisted the aid of our good friends, and we're**

determined to rid the NWA of The Varsity Club. Jimmy's gonna team with Steve Williams, or Sting, or Dusty Rhodes, or Nikita Koloff, and together we're gonna put an end to the careers of Rick Steiner and Mike Rotundo. I think they've gone about as far as they can go in this sport. We've got plans for Rotundo by himself, too.

ROSENBAUM: Does this mean that Jimmy has designs on Rotundo's TV title?

PRECIOUS: You bet. That will be the first step in our plan to eradicate Sullivan's stable. Then, Jimmy will get rid of Steiner. Then, it'll just be Sullivan and Jimmy, one on one, for the whole world to see. I don't have to tell you what Jimmy's gonna do to that piece of slime, do I?

SMITH: Not really. Precious, I think I speak for all of us when I say I'm very happy to see your competitive spirit back again. For a while, we were doubting you'd ever be the same again.

PRECIOUS: Not the same, huh? Well, just to show you guys that I'm back and better than ever, I bought you all a little present. They're right there next to your napkins.

ROSENBAUM: *(Unwrapping his gift)* Hey, it's a little spray can!

PRECIOUS: That's right. From now on, *nobody* is going to bother me and Jimmy anymore. We are a team and we *always* will be a team. The fans can expect to see us the way we used to be, too, and that means the spray can is back and back to stay. We've been wrestling's most glamorous couple for years now, and I see no reason for that to change. Don't be too surprised to see Jimmy with a couple of major title belts around his waist real soon.

SAKS: I'm sure the fans will be happy to see that.

PRECIOUS: Not as happy as I am for their support. You know, even when things were at their worst a few weeks ago, we always got supportive cards and letters from all those wonderful people out there. I'd like to thank them for all they've done for me and Jimmy. We love each and every one of them, and we'll prove it by booting Sullivan right out of the picture. □

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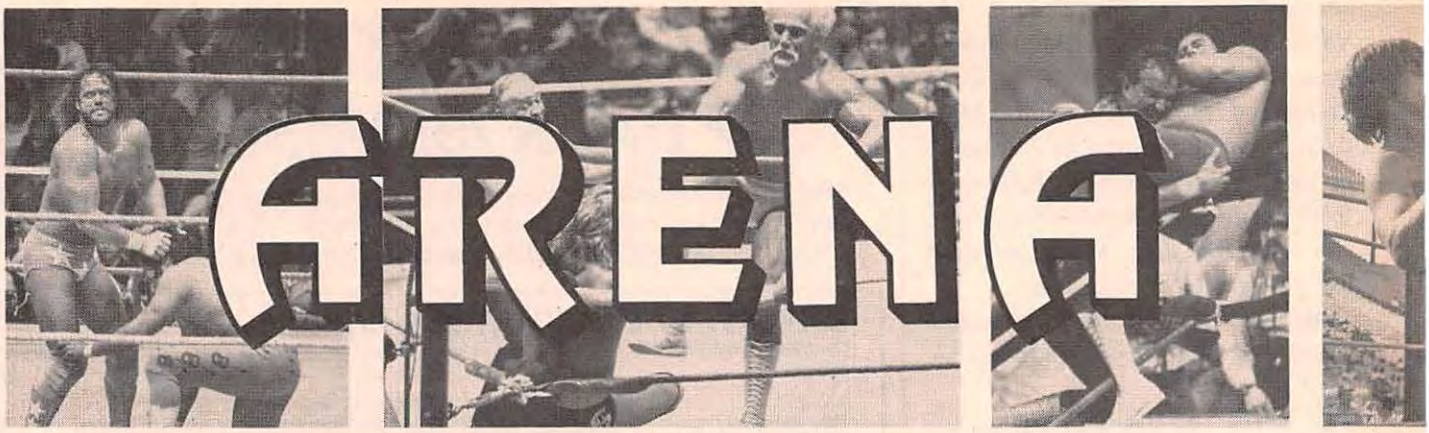


This special feature is for all fans who want to know who won and who lost . . . and how. *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* will print eyewitness reports from correspondents who attend the matches. If you'd like to have your correspondent report printed in the world's largest-selling wrestling magazine, send it to: *Arena Report; PWI, Box 48; Rockville Centre, NY 11571.*

AUDITORIUM ARENA (Denver): **The Iron Sheik** beat **Terry Taylor** by submission . . . **Big Bossman** pinned **Scott Casey** . . . **Ultimate Warrior** beat **Bobby Heenan**, then stuffed him into a weasel suit . . . **Jake Roberts** and **Rick Rude** battled to a double-countout . . . **The Midnight Rockers** downed **The Conquistadors** . . . **Bad News Brown** pinned **Jim Neidhart**, but grabbed his trunks to do so . . . **Andre The Giant** used the ropes to pin **Hacksaw Duggan.**

—Doug Bundren

THE CAPITAL CENTRE (Landover, MD): **Tim Horner** pinned **Rick Steiner** . . . **Bugsy McGraw** wrestled to a 20-minute draw against **Larry Zbyszko** . . . **Dick Murdoch** pinned **Rip Morgan** . . . **Mighty Wilbur** lost by submission to **The Russian Assassin**; after the match, Wilbur got into a fight with **Ronnie Garvin** near the dressing room area and Garvin knocked him out . . . **Rick Morton & Brad Armstrong** beat **The Sheepherders** . . . **The Fantastics** defeated **The Midnight Express & Jim Cornette** in a bunkhouse match . . . **Mike Rotundo** and **Steve Williams** wrestled to a double-countout . . . In a Triple Tower of Doom match, **Paul Ellering, The Road Warriors, Lex Luger, Dusty Rhodes, & Sting** beat **Kevin Sullivan, Ric Flair, Tully Blanchard, Arn Anderson, Barry Windham, & J.J. Dillon.**

—Ray Ney

CELEBRITY THEATRE (Anaheim, CA): **Jerry Lawler** pinned **Curt Hennig** to retain his AWA World heavyweight title . . . **Mando & Chavo Guerrero** defeated **Paul Diamond & Pat Tanaka** by disqualification . . . **Madusa Miceli** pinned **Magnificent Mimi** . . . **Rocky Mountain Thunder** destroyed **Darryl Nichols** . . . **Tao** pinned **Krusher Krugnoff.**

—Ross Blair

CIVIC CENTER (Charleston, WV): **Tim Horner** pinned **Larry Zbyszko** using the ropes . . . **Al Perez** pinned **Brad Armstrong** with **Gary Hart's** help . . . **Ronnie Garvin** pinned **The Mighty Wilbur** in 43 seconds . . . **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** beat **The Sheepherders** . . . **Jim Garvin** beat **Kevin Sullivan** in a "Prince of Darkness" match . . . **The Fantastics** defeated **The Midnight Express** in a bunkhouse tag match . . . **The Road Warriors** won a scaffold match over **Ivan Koloff & The Russian Assassin** . . . **Sting, Lex Luger, Nikita Koloff, & Steve Williams** defeated **The Four Horsemen** in a steel cage match.

—Joey Barr

CLAIBORNE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL (Tazewell, TN): **The Storm Trooper** pinned **Todd Morton** . . . **Doug Furnas** beat **The Dog** by disqualification . . . **The Bullet** defeated **Mike Davis** by disqualification as **Tommy Lane** and **Bill Dundee** interfered . . . **The Mongolian Stomper** pinned **Wendell Cooley** with the help of **The Storm Trooper** . . . In a six-man tag match, **The Party Boys & Scott Armstrong** beat **The Rock 'n' Roll RPMs & Bill Dundee.**

—Eric Rose

COLLEGE OF THE DESERT SPORTS CENTER (Palm Desert, CA): **Iron Mike Sharpe** defeated **Terry Gibbs** . . . **The Rougeaus** defeated **The Killer Bees** . . . **Koko B. Ware** beat **One Man Gang** by disqualification . . . **Sherri Martel** retained her WWF World women's title by beating **Rockin' Robin** . . . **Ken Patera** defeated **Hercules Hernandez.**

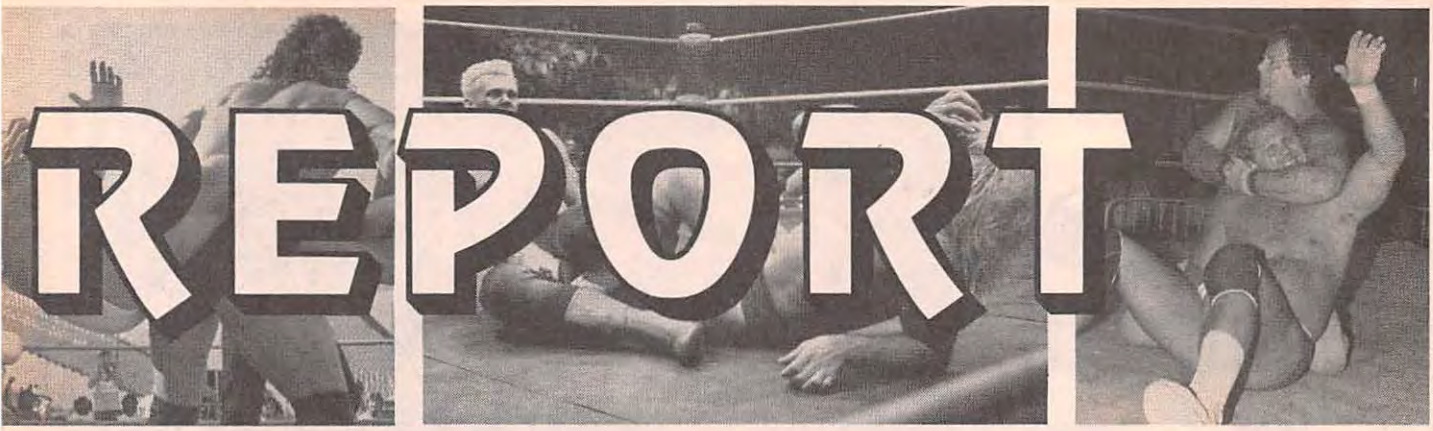
—Rick Contreras

DANE COUNTY EXPOSITION CENTER (Madison, WI): **Tito Santana** defeated **Terry Taylor** . . . **Butcher LeDuc** beat **Jerry Allen** . . . **Dino Bravo** pinned **Ken Patera** . . . **Bad News Brown** defeated **Jim Neidhart** . . . **The Powers of Pain** beat WWF World tag champs **Demolition** in a non-title match . . . **Brutus Beefcake** defeated **The Honky Tonk Man** by disqualification . . . **Andre The Giant** used the ropes to pin **Jim Duggan.**

—Jason Leibfried

EXPO SQUARE PAVILION (Tulsa, OK): **Jimmy Jack Funk** beat **Bob Bradley** . . . **The Samoan Swat Team** defeated **Matt Borne & The Missing Link** . . . **Eric Embry** pinned **Steve Casey** . . . **Steve & Shaun Simpson** beat **John Tatum & Jack Victory** to retain their World Class tag team belts . . . **Michael Hayes** beat **Buddy Roberts** by disqualification when **The Samoan Swat Team** interfered on Roberts' behalf . . . **Kerry Von Erich** won by disqualification over **Iceman Parsons.**

—Diane Seals



REPORT

KNIGHT CENTER (Miami, FL): **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** beat **The Sheepherders** . . . **Mike Rotundo** pinned **Kendall Windham** . . . **The Fantastics** defeated **The Midnight Express** . . . **Kevin Sullivan** beat **Jimmy Garvin** in a taped-fist match . . . **Nikita Koloff** beat **Al Perez** in a Russian chain match . . . **Steve Williams** & **Sting** beat **Tully Blanchard** & **Arn Anderson** by disqualification . . . **Lex Luger** & **Dusty Rhodes** battled **Ric Flair** & **Barry Windham** to a double-countout . . . **The Road Warriors** beat **The Russian Assassin** & **Ivan Koloff** in a scaffold match.

—Scott Foley

MADISON SQUARE GARDEN (New York): **Terry Taylor** defeated **Lanny Poffo** by submission . . . **The Rougeaus** defeated **The Midnight Rockers** when **Shawn Michaels** was knocked off the ropes for the pin; **The British Bulldogs** then ran in the ring and cleaned house after arguing with the Rougeaus . . . **Bret Hart** pinned **Danny Davis** . . . **King Haku** pinned **S.D. Jones** . . . **Demolition** beat **The British Bulldogs** when **Raymond Rougeau** hit **Davey Boy Smith** over the head with Mr. Fuji's cane, enbabling **Ax** to pin **Davey Boy Smith** . . . **The Powers of Pain** destroyed **The Bolsheviks** . . . **Andre the Giant** pinned **Hacksaw Duggan** in a lumberjack match.

—Azizi Parker

MISSISSIPPI COLISEUM (Jackson, MS): **Shaun Simpson** won a Triple Dome of Terror battle royal . . . **Kerry Von Erich** defeated **Kamala** by disqualification . . . **Michael Hayes** pinned **Buddy Roberts** in a Triple Dome match . . . **The Missing Link** defeated **Iceman Parsons** . . . **Samoan Tafu** pinned **Bob Bradley** . . . **The Karate Kid** pinned **Little Tokyo** in a midget match.

—Chris Walker

OHIO CENTER (Columbus, OH): **Randy Savage** defeated **Ted DiBiase** . . . **Brutus Beefcake** defeated **The Honky Tonk Man** by disqualification . . . **Rick Rude** beat **Jake Roberts** by countout . . . **Bad News Brown** pinned **Jim Neidhart** . . . **Big Bossman** downed **Sam Houston** . . . **The Ultimate Warrior** defeated **The Menace** . . . **Scott Casey** pinned **Iron Mike Sharpe.**

—Dave Johnson

SPORTS ARENA (Nashville, TN): **Robert Fuller** defeated **Jeff Jarrett** . . . **The Great Senshe** defeated **Billy Travis** in a stretcher match . . . **Phil Hickerson** defeated **Max Pain** to retain the CWA title . . . **Little Coco** & **The Karate Kid** defeated **Downtown Bruno** & **Sylvia** by disqualification . . . **Gary Young** beat **Tommy Gilbert** . . . **Brickhouse Brown** wrestled to a draw with **Scott Steiner.**

—Mark Taylor

TOLEDO SPORTS ARENA (Toledo, OH): **Big Bossman** destroyed **Sam Houston** . . . **The Midnight Rockers** downed **The Conquistadors** . . . **The Iron Sheik** beat **Scott Casey** . . . **The British Bulldogs** defeated **The Bolsheviks** by countout . . . **Greg Valentine** pinned **Don Muraco** with the help of **Jimmy Hart's** megaphone . . . **Jake Roberts** beat **Rick Rude** by disqualification . . . **Randy Savage** pinned **Ted DiBiase** with a small package.

—Tom Madlinski

UIC PAVILION (Chicago): **Dusty Rhodes** & **The Road Warriors** beat **Ric Flair, Tully Blanchard,** & **Arn Anderson** . . . **Lex Luger** beat **Barry Windham** by countout . . . **Nikita Koloff** & **Sting** beat **Ivan Koloff** & **Dick Murdoch** . . . **Jimmy Garvin** won a Prince of Darkness match against **Kevin Sullivan** . . . **The Fantastics** won a bunkhouse match against **The Midnight Express** . . . **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** beat **The Sheepherders** . . . **The Russian Assassin** beat **Kendall Windham** . . . **Steve Williams** pinned **Al Perez** in a great scientific match . . . **Tim Horner** and **Rick Steiner** battled to a draw.

—Lisa Pleasant

RECAP: The big story this summer is the NWA's Great American Bash series. The Bashes have been characterized by exciting cards and many title matches. Most of the title excitement has been between **The Fantastics** and **The Midnight Express,** who are feuding over the U.S. tag team belts . . . **The Road Warriors** continue to dominate all tag teams during the Bashes. The team that ran **The Powers of Pain** out of the NWA is consistently winning scaffold matches over **Ivan Koloff** and **The Russian Assassin** . . . **Ric Flair** has protected his NWA World title by sheltering himself in tag team bouts . . . **Terry Taylor** is finding that entering the WWF might have been a bad move; he has been losing his matches against **The Iron Sheik** and **Tito Santana** . . . For another new WWF acquisition, the climate is far more pleasant: **Big Bossman** has found success in the WWF that had previously eluded him . . . In the AWA, World champion **Jerry Lawler** continues to retain his title. This month, Lawler's top challenges came from former AWA World champ **Curt Hennig,** who has since fled to the WWF . . . Remember to send in your arena reports today. Don't let your favorite grapplers go unrepresented! □

VOLUME IX No. 9 SEPTEMBER 1988

WRESTLING ENQUIRER

HANSEN NEGOTIATING WITH WWF OFFICIALS

Could Return To Federation Shortly; Says He'll Go Where Money Is

By BILL APTER

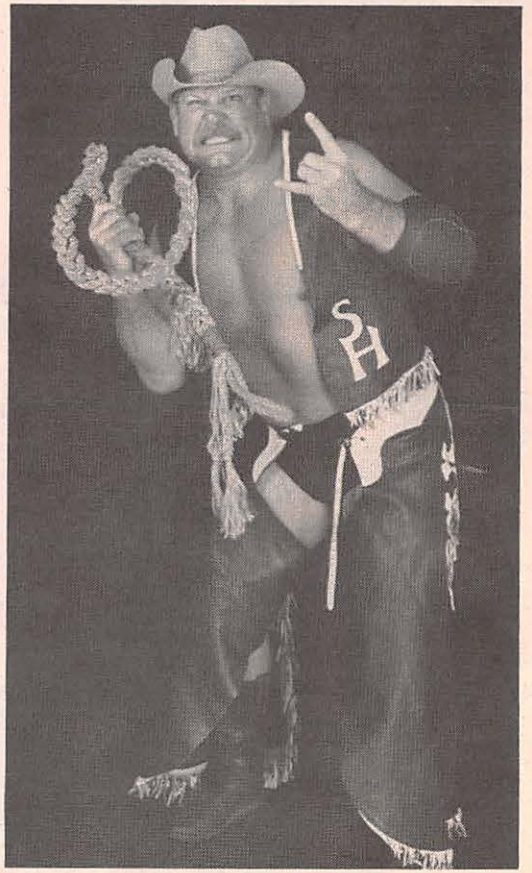
STAMFORD, CT—Stan "The Lariat" Hansen, a 16-year veteran of pro wrestling and former AWA World champion, has entered into negotiations with WWF officials and could return to the federation shortly.

Hansen appeared with Hulk Hogan in the WWF film *No Holds Barred* this past summer, spurring rumors that a contract signing could be imminent. Hansen is best known in the WWF for having broken Bruno Sammartino's neck in a 1976 match at Madison Square Garden, an incident that led to a Shea Stadium rematch that drew over 32,000 fans.

The main obstacle to Hansen's return is his Japanese commitment. After finishing *No Holds Barred,* Hansen went on tour in Japan and won the All-Japan United National and PWF heavyweight titles from Genichiro Tenryu. But the WWF usually does not allow its wrestlers to compete in Japan, and Hansen would probably have to vacate both titles.

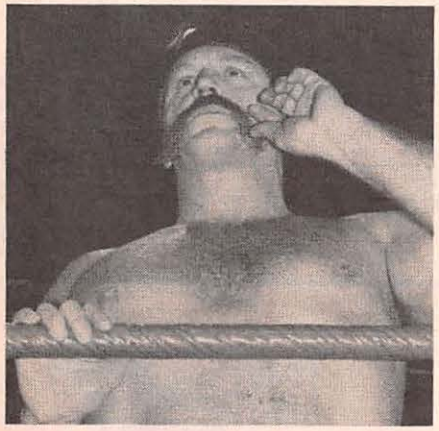
Hansen doesn't perceive this as a problem. "I go where the money is," he said. "If they wanna pay me what I'm asking, I'll be there. This has nothing to do with the fans or loyalty or any of that crap. Show me the greenbacks and I'm there."

Hansen has gained a reputation as a fiercely independent man. He won the AWA World title from Rick Martel on December 19, 1985, but was stripped of the belt exactly seven months later when he refused to defend it against Nick Bockwinkel in Denver. Hansen never again appeared in the AWA.



Former AWA World champion Stan Hansen would like to lasso some of the big WWF bucks.

DeBeers Back In AWA



Col. DeBeers' racist views makes him one of the sport's most hated men.

By BOB SMITH

MINNEAPOLIS—Citing his desire to rid wrestling of "inferior beings," Col. DeBeers has returned to the AWA following an absence of over one year.

AWA officials, however, admit that they are concerned about the South African's racial views, especially in light of Jimmy Snuka's possible return to the federation.

"We welcome back a wrestler of Mr. DeBeers' caliber," AWA official Gary DeRusha said, "but we do not welcome back his blatantly racist views. Hopefully, Mr. DeBeers will stick to wrestling and not constantly expound upon his opinions. We are very proud of our following among black fans."

DeBeers, who at one time refused to wrestle Snuka and then nearly crippled him, said that he is looking forward to wrestling "The Superfly" again. "I have already proven that Snuka is an inferior being," he said, "but if he wants to come back and let me finish the job, that's all right with me. I have reserved a spot on my mantelpiece for Snuka's head."

Rock 'n' Roll Express Breaks Up

By GERSH KUNTZMAN

CHARLOTTE, NC—Rick Morton and Robert Gibson, the four-time former NWA World tag team champions known as The Rock 'n' Roll Express, split up on August 2 after a five-year partnership.

"There was an obvious rift between the two of them which we cannot discuss at this time," said NWA broadcaster and spokesman David Crockett. "This is most unfortunate, because they were one of the finest teams I have ever had the pleasure to see in action. Hopefully, something will be worked out and the Rock 'n' Rolls will get back together."

Morton and Gibson both refused to comment on the situation. Morton has decided to stay in the NWA and has formed The Rock 'n' Lightning Express with Brad Armstrong. Tim Horner, Armstrong's usual partner, is scheduled for several singles matches over the next few months.

Gibson has entered into negotiations with AWA officials for a possible return, and also might wrestle as an independent for several other federations. After leaving the NWA last January, Morton and Gibson wrestled in the AWA for several months. They returned to the NWA in April following the Crockett Cup.

Rick Morton and Robert Gibson have decided to part company.

Continental Buys USA Wrestling

By STU SAKS

BIRMINGHAM, AL—David Woods, president of the Continental Wrestling Federation, announced that the CWF has bought the USA Wrestling Federation from Ron Fuller and associates. Details of the sale, which was to take effect August 20, were not disclosed.

"We believe that the areas previously covered by USA, which includes Tennessee and Kentucky, are very viable for wrestling," said Woods. "As you know, before Continental split into Continental and USA last February, we operated in this area, so we are familiar with what the fans want."

Woods said that it has not been decided which USA wrestlers and titles would be incorporated into Continental. At the time of the sale, Mongolian Stomper was the USA heavyweight champion, Wendell Cooley had the Tennessee belt, and Scott Armstrong was junior heavyweight champ.

Woods also announced that the "Road to Birmingham" tournament for the vacant Continental heavyweight title will be held in October at Boutwell Auditorium. The tournament was originally scheduled for August 22, but problems with the Auditorium forced its postponement.

AROUND THE GLOBE

TOKYO, JAPAN

In a touching tribute to the late Bruiser Brody, Stan Hansen has been leading fans here in chants of "Brody! Brody!" before and during his matches. Brody, who was a three-time All-Japan International champion, died on July 17 in San Juan, Puerto Rico, after being stabbed the previous evening prior to a card in Bayamon. "This is the only way I know to keep the memory of Bruiser Brody alive," said Hansen. "The fans here loved Bruiser not only because he was a great wrestler, but he was also a great man." A Bruiser Brody memorial card was scheduled for August 29 in Tokyo.

CALGARY, ALBERTA

J.R. Foley, who managed Dynamite Kid, Junkyard Dog, Giant Haystacks, and many other stars in the Stampede area, died here July 24 at the age of 50. Those who wrestled under him and saw him work claim that Foley was the most controversial and talented manager the area ever had. "I think the success of many of the wrestlers he managed *after* they left Stampede proves what a great manager he was," said Stampede promoter Stu Hart.

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

Jerry Whitaker, chairman of the largest wrestling fan club in South Africa, told reporters in a well-attended press conference here that "the people of this country should not be judged by the actions of Col. DeBeers." Whitaker said that the members of his fan club are embarrassed by DeBeers' actions and are hoping to persuade him to change his prejudiced ways.

THE *PWI* POLL

Each month, *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* will conduct a poll on a controversial issue in the sport today. The results present a multifaceted view of public opinion that offers valuable insights into the views of your fellow fans

THE SUBJECT: THE POWERS OF PAIN JOIN THE WWF

FANS SHOULD NO longer be stunned when wrestlers change federations. It happens so often, it's no longer a novelty. The last few months, for example, have seen The Rock 'n' Roll Express leave the NWA for the AWA only to return a few weeks later, and the WWF expand its ranks with the addition of Terry Taylor, Curt Hennig, and The Midnight Rockers.

The most notable federation change of 1988 occurred when The Powers of Pain left the NWA, joined the WWF, and immediately started a war with WWF World tag team champions Demolition. The teams share common ground in terms of wrestling style, ring apparel, and sheer brutality. Is the WWF big enough for both teams?

Possibly not. According to a significant number of fans we contacted, Warlord and Barbarian did not leave the NWA of their own volition. In our telephone poll of more than 1,000 *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* readers (culled from subscription lists; statistical margin of error plus or minus three percent), 78 percent believed that The Road Warriors are the reason Warlord and Barbarian left the NWA.

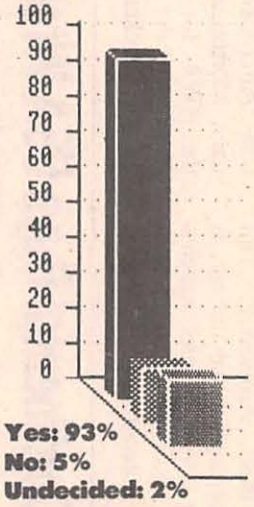
Very few fans, however, believe that Demolition can survive a long feud with the Powers. In fact, 68 percent said that Warlord and Barbarian will win the World tag team belts from the champions, indicating that maybe *Ax and Smash* should start packing their bags.

Regarding management, fans were split. A majority of poll respondents (56 percent) thought ex-manager Paul Jones was to blame for his clients' departure from the NWA; of those 56 percent, most believed that if Jones hadn't insisted that Warlord and Barbarian fight a series of scaffold matches against The Road Warriors, he might still be managing them.

A 58 percent majority felt it would be a bad decision if the Powers named Tito Santana as their permanent manager; that possibility was rumored when the Powers first entered the WWF, but now it seems unlikely.

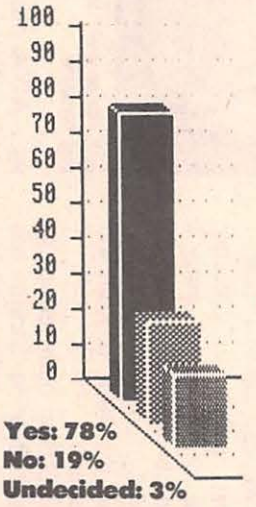
The most one-sided response (93 percent) revealed that most fans feel the Powers' move to the WWF was a good one, citing either the added exposure they will receive or the fact that they are out of the shadows of the Warriors. Will they become as popular as the Warriors in the WWF, however? A hefty 85 percent don't think so.□

Did The Powers of Pain make the right choice in going to the WWF?



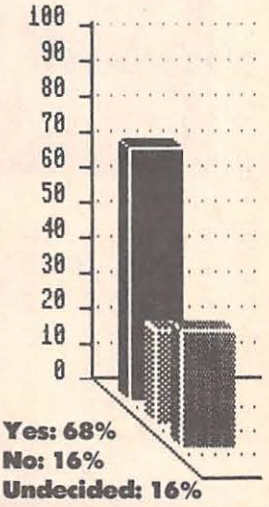
Yes: 93%
No: 5%
Undecided: 2%

Were the Powers run out of the NWA by The Road Warriors?



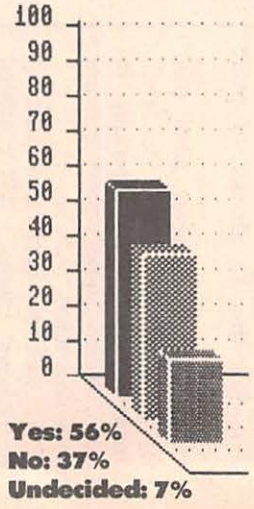
Yes: 78%
No: 19%
Undecided: 3%

Will the Powers beat Demolition for the WWF tag title?



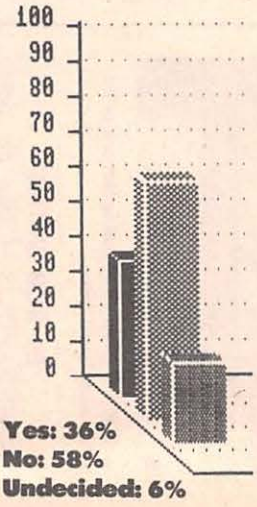
Yes: 68%
No: 16%
Undecided: 16%

Is Paul Jones to blame for the departure of the Powers?



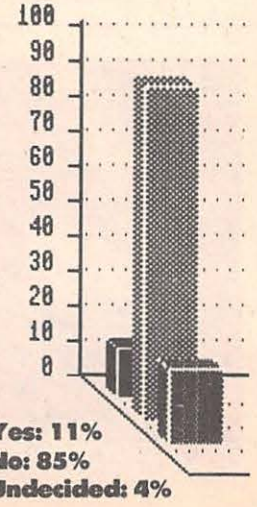
Yes: 56%
No: 37%
Undecided: 7%

Should Tito Santana be named the Powers' permanent manager?



Yes: 36%
No: 58%
Undecided: 6%

Will Warlord and Barbarian become as popular as The Road Warriors?



Yes: 11%
No: 85%
Undecided: 4%

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